

LIGHT MOMENT IN A SERIOUS MEETING - AMA Alumni Foundation Chairman Blaine Clarke, '72, and AMA Alumni Association President LTC Steve Trent, '70, share a light moment during the 21 September meeting of both boards in Richmond.

2014 Reunion to see major changes

The 2014 annual AMA Reunion scheduled for 24-26 April will see an emphasis on AMA business while returning to some reunion activities missing the past few years.

Starting on Thursday night 24 April, there will once again be a welcoming reception at the Ironwood Country Club next to the headquarters hotel, the Holiday Inn Golf and Conference Center in Staunton. This event comes back by popular demand.

On Friday, **Admiral Mary DeCredico**, an AMA Foundation Trustee and U. S. Naval Academy professor, will lead a luxury motor coach tour of the Valley with emphasis on locales where Union troops burned homes and barns in 1864, 150 years ago. Dr. DeCredico will also speak at the Saturday luncheon.

Golfers will tee off Friday morning at the Waynesboro Country Club, hopefully joined by alumni from Fishburne and Fork Union. Saturday afternoon, the traditional Sporting Clay Shoot will be held at the Flying Rabbit where participation by Fishburne, FUMA and SMA alumni are invited.

On Friday evening, there will be a business meeting at 1800 to help us plot the future course of our efforts. All alumni (stakeholders) are invited. Spouses may also attend but if they want to wait until the plated dinner is served at 1930, they can be accommodated in the Hospitality Room.

Saturday morning will be free until Founder's Day ceremonies commence in the Stone Church Cemetery at 1100. Lunch will follow at 1200 with a presentation by Admiral DeCredico and the awarding of AMA Alumni Medals and installation of the latest Sports Hall of Fame members. A plated Awards Banquet will be held Saturday night with AMA Legacy Scholarships awarded.

**Future Is Now
Reinvigorated**

**AMA's Korean War veterans
remembered 60 years after
the war officially ended**

**Coach Sassaman
has passed away**

Augusta Military Academy
Alumni Association, Inc.



October 2013

To All My AMA Brothers:

First I hope you and yours had a wonderful summer and you will continue to prosper in all your endeavors. We have had a change in the infrastructure of the Alumni Association. Our Vice President, **Harry Campbell, '70**, could not complete his term and **Luke Snyder, '60**, has agreed to take the position.

The AMA Museum remains on track for certification and we expect to have that completed within the next two years. There will be a detailed briefing on the Museum at the 2014 Reunion explaining where we are and where we need to go. The Secretary of the Alumni Association, **Paul Karch, '79**, will tell us about possible grants for the Museum.

We are continuing to make changes in Reunion 2014. The theme this year will be "The Burning" (see page 29). **Dr. Mary DeCredico**, Professor of History at the U. S. Naval Academy, will describe what happened to the Valley in 1864. On Thursday night, we are meeting at the Ironwood Country Club (formerly the Staunton Country Club) by request. Even though we are adding this event, we do not anticipate an increase in cost of registration. In order to keep costs down, we plan tentatively to hold our Saturday luncheon at the Old Stone Church John Craig Hall. This will constitute a considerable savings.

The last two things I want to speak on are fundraising and volunteering. Our fundraising is only moderately successful. In order for this organization to self-perpetuate 30 years down the road, we must raise approximately \$125,000 a year for the bare bones minimum for the next three years. This \$125,000 does not cover maintenance such as painting of the house and having major appliances fail. With the number of our alumni decreasing each year, we need for everyone who cares about AMA to give what they can to support the legacy we wish to leave behind.

Lastly, volunteer! Wherever you can to help with the reunion will be much appreciated. We need folks to help move PX items from the Museum to the Holiday Inn and back to the Museum on Sunday, bartenders for our open bar, folks to work registration, the Tower of Power and other events. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Crysta, me or someone on the Museum staff.

Respectfully and with Best Wishes for the Holiday Season,

Stephen G. Trent, '70
President
AMA Alumni Association



Volume 2013, Number 3

Newsletter of the AMA Alumni Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 101, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0101

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Crysta Stephenson

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The *Bayonet* welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Please print or type your submission.

Clear, correctly exposed photos are always welcomed.

Mail, e-mail or FAX information to:
Bob Bradford
1687 Schillers Court,
Folsom, CA 95630

Phone 925/395-1937
FAX 916/817-8596

E-mail: AMABayonet@aol.com

1935

Julian Quarles is in a senior care facility in Harrisonburg. His daughter, Mary Nell O'Dowd, has relocated to Temple Terrace, FL to be near her office. She will be traveling back to Harrisonburg at least once a month to visit with her Dad. Her husband has a position at the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg.

1942

Angus Hines celebrated his 90th birthday on 7 August. Congratulations! He reports he still has the same Hatteras boat after 26 years *"and Captain Brett is in his 21st year with me. I have nothing at all to complain about!"* [angushines@aol.com]

1946

Jim Bozarth has been AWOL for many years but **Harry Baldwin**, '72, found him living in Richmond. [jbozarth62@comcast.net]

1947

Colonel Sam Conley reports from Sierra Vista, AZ that he is doing well except for a bad knee. *"The VA wants me to replace my knee now but I'm not ready. I do miss walking my dogs two miles every morning."* [sam_conley@cox.net]

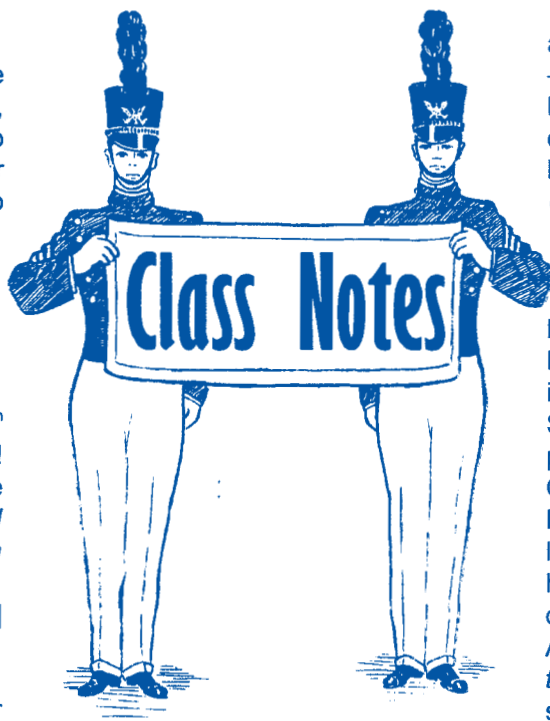
1948

Ernie Click continues to recover from heart surgery and traveled to Baltimore for Marge's class reunion. They live in Flagler, Beach FL. [ernie235@aol.com]

1949

Frank Spencer and **Ida** celebrated their 60th anniversary with the very good news that in her battle with cancer, her white cell count continues to improve. She began radiation treatment in late September. Our thoughts and prayers are with this very special couple. [FrankSpencer53@gmail.com]

Ed Chauncey and **Bobby** still live in Culpeper. Bobby says that Ed is not able to get out but that his eyes really light up when he hears any news from AMA. He loves to hear from his AMA friends, so call him at 540/547-9899.



Bill Rubush lives in Donalsonville, GA where he is hoping to get his pontoon boat ready to go back in the water.

1950

Ed Click and **Sue** spent 30 plus days on a cruise from Boston to Greenland and Iceland, then on to Europe. They came home for a few days to pick up clean underwear, then joined **Bob** and **Nancy Bradford** in Africa visiting Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar for an extraordinary series of safaris, flying out of Nairobi just a week before the attack on the shopping center there.. [edwin.click@comcast.net]

Tommy Clements spent several days in a Dallas hospital undergoing treatment for COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). Says Tommy, *"Colonel Roller was right. Cigarettes are worse than rattlesnakes and I'm paying the price for smoking all those years."* He says the medications are working and he is feeling better. [tclements7@att.net]

1951

Rod Willey has been waging a war with groundhogs who were tearing up his summer garden. He sat with a rifle across his knee waiting for the varmints to stick their heads above ground and popped off a few. But then one day Rod saw a head appear

above ground when he was unarmed – except for a hammer. He hurled the hammer at the critter, hit him square on the head and sent him to ground-hog heaven. Rod is thinking about entering the hammer throw in the next Olympics! [rodwilley8@yahoo.com]

1952

Roger Messick was forced to miss Reunion 2013 because of the terminal illness of a close family member. Sadly, Roger and Jean's son-in-law passed away soon after the reunion. Our thoughts and prayers go with Roger's family and their inlaws. Roger lives in Prescott, Arizona and it was his community that suffered the loss of 19 firefighters, victims of the Arizona wild-fires. *"The loss and hurt to our community were very great,"* says Roger. [trmessup@aol.com]

Tommy Mitchell's wife, **Connie**, has been ill and we are hoping that she is much improved.

1953

Ozzie Ferro was excited when the new Hialeah Park Casino opened just two blocks from his home in August. The storied racetrack has undergone massive renovations and now appeals to more than just horse racing enthusiasts. Good luck, Ozzie! [ferroozzie@bellsouth.net]

Harold Chow lived all around the world in his 32 years with Pan Am. He was in charge of computer installations at airports worldwide. His last job was with Hawaiian Airlines before he retired in Hawaii in 1995.

[hkychow@yahoo.com]

Manuel Balbis, who had to miss the 2013 reunion because of a business crisis in Brazil, says he is already making plans to be at Reunion 2014. Maweeet lives in Miami.

[maweeet@aol.com]

Alex Wattay, who has had repeated bouts with cancer, reports that he had a CT scan *"and I am clear."* He'll have another scan soon and we are all hoping for the same positive results. Alex is very excited to be welcoming **AMA Foundation Trustee Dr. Mary**

DeCredico as the keynote speaker for Veterans Day on Hilton Head Island. Admiral DeCredico is history professor at the U.S. Naval Academy of which Alex is a graduate. He retired as a commander and Navy aviator. Alex and Diane spent a week in Williamsburg at the end of September.

[Dialwat@aol.com]

1954

Manley Caldwell took a cruise on the St. Lawrence Seaway in September. Manley practices law in Palm Beach.

[caldwell@caldwellpacetti.com]

1957

Goodloe Saunders says that **Brenda** has retired from her position as a nurse at the University of Virginia Hospital. Don't know if he has been able to recruit her to work on his basement model railroad.

1958

Eqils Macs came to AMA for a single year from Venezuela. He now lives in Olympia, the capital of Washington State. **Ben Zinkhan**, '60, recalls that Eqils was in his platoon.

1960

Luke Snyder is on the mend after having Achilles heel surgery. His doctor told him it would take four to six months to recover but his neighbor says eight months. Ouch!

[luksnyder@carolina.rr.com]

J. H. Morris is now living in Wilsonville, OR, 20 miles from Portland.

[morrissi312@gmail.com]

Frank Williamson and Bev celebrated their 51st anniversary in August. They visited **Anne** and **Luke Snyder** in their mountain house in Watauga County, NC the week before their anniversary, then Anne and Luke visited Frank and Bev in Richmond on the September weekend of the AMA Boards meetings.

[frankbev1@aol.com]

1961

Jim Crawford is finishing his fifth and final year coaching football at Marist School, a Catholic high school in Atlanta. In the seven years since he retired from Nortel, Jim has coached or helped coach some 25 teams in all



FLORIDA VISITORS - Rodney White, '64, and his family visited the AMA Museum this past summer. After having served in the Air Force 1966-70, Rodney was a deputy sheriff in Fort Myers, FL for two decades.

sports. He was First Captain at AMA, elected to *Ab Astra per Aspera* in 1960 and is a retired colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve with Vietnam service. (See **Toth** story on page 28)

[jcrawford@me.com]

Nick Carter's wife, Nancy (who is **Colonel Gardner's** daughter), retired from the Charlotte, NC City Council after a long and distinguished career.

1962

Aquiles "Rod" Rodriguez says that after 15 years living in Sweden, *"I have thrown up my hands and have moved to Sebring, FL. I hope that I will not see snow again for a long, long time."* [r2yankee@gmail.com]

Captain Bill Keller, USNR, Retd has been quite busy in Houston since he retired seven years ago and his wife retired last year. They have a son who lives in Austin and two daughters in the Houston area plus ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The Kellers are making plans to attend the 2014 reunion. [bajkeller@yahoo.com]

1963

Bob Hume lost his wife in August. We

were so very sorry to hear this news. Bob and Gaye arranged the annual reunion motor coach tours for many years for which we are so grateful. We extend to Bob and his family our most sincere sympathy.

[tmates@tmates.com]

1966

Jim Bewley and **Eddie Davis** had not seen each other for 45 years when they finally got together in Hanover, PA this past July for a memory-filled reunion.

[davisdwin@msn.com]

1967

Brian Miller lives on Charter Oaks Drive in Charlottesville. He won the "knock out" drill at Reunion 2008 and looks forward to attending the reunion next April.

Mac McInnis and Mary Kay saw their 37 year old son get married for the first time last May in Wilmington, NC. Congratulations to the couple and the parents. Mac and Mary Kay live on the Big Island in Hawaii.

[cmcinnis@hawaii.rr.com]

John Botcheller and his wife, Nancy, proudly announced the wedding of their son, John Paul, to Elizabeth

Henderson of Quincy, MA on 29 June. In attendance at the wedding were **Mickey Toms**, '67, and his daughter, Francesca, and **Mrs. Rob Nichol**, '67, and her daughter, Casey, a two time AMA Legacy Scholarship recipient. Nancy Botcheller is recovering from total knee replacement, her second major orthopaedic procedure of 2013. [botcheller@aol.com]

Steven Bailey and **Bill Scarborough**, '69, got together in early October to smoke some 38 year old Macanudos and sip some Kentucky bourbon. They both live in Augusta, WV. [s.bailey48@verizon.net]

Jackson Prentice and Mary Ruth just celebrated 40 years of "marital bliss." They are both proud of the fact that **Doc Savedge** not only came to their wedding in Alexandria but presented them with an engraved sterling silver baby cup when their first child was born. Jackson was editor-in-chief of *The Recall* for two years. He is the principal in Jackson Prentice Real Estate Services, LLC in Alexandria. [jbprentice@aol.com]

Rex Rumley has started a couple of companies that build Ham Radios and CB Base Station wire antennas known as dipoles *"and we have now shipped antennas to every state plus 26 foreign countries."* Rex has been unable to drive long distances since he contracted neuropathy in his legs and arms. His wife has had three cancer surgeries so the drive from Columbus, OH to Fort Defiance *"looks longer and longer with each passing year."* Rex had a serious blood infection in July which led to the discovery of a heart problem and a diagnosis of COPD but he is doing better now. [rex183@insight.rr.com]

1968

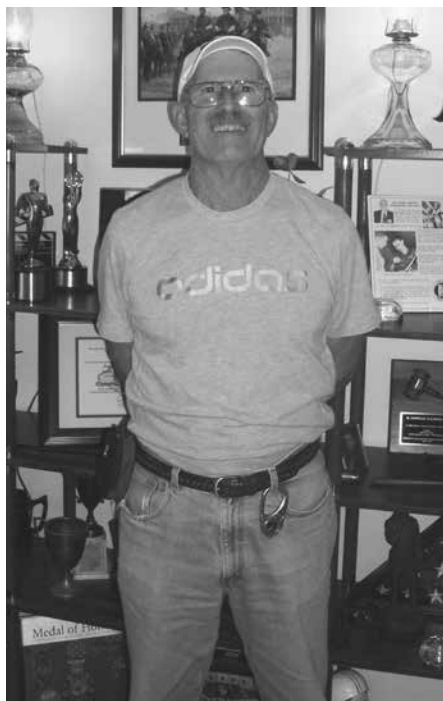
Gordon Metz has changed his e-mail address. [GordonRMetz@gmail.com]

1969

Bill Baeder and Linda lost their eldest son in September. What can you say to the distraught parents, Bill and Linda, except to offer our profound and sincere condolences. [billama69@aol.com]



Top, Norm Strehle, '62, spent a few profitable hours at the Museum this summer. He lives in Dunellen, NJ. Below, **Earl Pangborn**, '65, from Andrews, NC, stopped by on his way to visit Rex Miller, '65, in Timberville, VA. Earl donated his B Company book from 1964-65 for which we thank him sincerely.



Nicky Syropoulos gives us the very good news that he expects a host of Confederate reenactors at the 2014 reunion *"camped out on campus."* 2014 will be the 150th anniversary of

"The Burning," the systematic destruction of crops and livestock in the Shenandoah Valley under the command of Union officers Phil Sheridan and George Armstrong Custer. [syropoulos4@msn.com]

Jack White is running unopposed for a seat on the Mathews County (VA) Board of Supervisors, subject to the election on 5 November. Read about his candidacy at: www.IBackJack.us.

George Reaves has been a union representative for Federal employees since 1978. In 2003, he created the Independent Federal Sector Labor Union. George sits on the Department of Defense Roundtable consisting of ten Federal sector unions. For more than 35 years, he has negotiated labor/management agreements, organized union locals and provided training for union leaders.

[nailunion@aol.com]

1970

Jorge Rovirosa plans to donate a case of wine for Reunion 2014 which will be sold by the bottle at each table. Thank you, Jorge, for your continuing support of the AMA Foundation!

[jorge@Farovi.com]

1972

Reed Nettles again provided the AMA Alumni Foundation with hot pit passes for any NASCAR race in 2013 plus the 2014 Daytona 500. The passes were put in an on-line auction and Reed's classmate, **Chris Hart**, had the high bid of \$1,611, the entire amount going to the Foundation. Many thanks, Reed, for your ongoing support! (See SPOTLIGHT article on pages 30-31) [reed@getalicense.com]

Tim Fleet Cooper, his wife and two children visited with **Mark** and **Sherri Femrite** in Riner, near Blacksburg, for eight days this summer. Cooper is employed by an electrical company in Saudi Arabia. As we went to press, we had the disturbing news that Sherri had undergone emergency surgery. Our prayers are with you.

Doug Carter, one of our most loyal AMA Museum volunteers, had a pace-maker installed in late September.

Doug, who was inducted into the AMA Sports Hall of Fame earlier this year, is now reportedly doing well.

Stride Coleman lives in Fayetteville, NC, next to Fort Bragg. He is retired from the U.S. Army Special Forces Command. Stride traveled to Texas in October to visit his mother who just turned 90.

Rick Ellett lives in Roanoke and works for Sea-Tow which does boat rescue on Smith Mountain Lake.

1975

Major General Larry Nicholson, the Commanding General of the 1st Marine Division, hosted President Obama on the President's August visit to Camp Pendleton, CA. (Photo on page 21)

Kirk Pope, Jr. continues to recover from throat cancer surgery in Rehoboth Beach, DE. [kapj@verizon.net]

Bob Walker's stepdaughter Jenifer Harper graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee, Martin with a degree in communications. [walk9587@bellsouth.net]

Ricardo Samperio, from Guatemala when he attended Augusta, has been found at long last living in Ismo, SC. A B Company man, he played soccer at AMA for **Colonel Hoover**.

1983

Phil Bentley and Tammy had a three day weekend in Ocean City, MD in early September and Tammy, his mom and his dad, and Phil went to the Poconos for fishing but it was too hot for the finny creatures to bite. Tammy is still having problems with blood clots in her legs following gall bladder surgery.

[pbentley@hmc.psu.edu]

1984

Scott Cole is now in Virginia Beach after a tour of duty in Monterey, CA. Both Scott and his late Dad, **CPO Chester Cole**, are Navy men. Chief Cole was on the AMA faculty and after retirement was a valuable volunteer at the AMA Museum.

[scole@ncdoc.navy.mil]

Blaine Clarke reports on the Class of 1972

In August, Blaine had the unexpected and wonderful surprise of having his beautiful 19 year old daughter move from California to come live with him in Maryland.

good to just walk in the woods and catch up with each other," says Blaine. Maggie and Blaine will be visiting Scott's shooting club outside Baltimore this fall.



SHOOTING THE WORKS! Stride Coleman, '72, Maggie, Blaine and Phil Bentley, '83, shot 20 gauge shotguns at Old Forge Sporting Clays after the September Foundation Trustee meeting in Richmond.

Maggie is now enrolled in a local community college and taking her Dad on shopping trips for winter clothes, a commodity not needed in San Diego!

Blaine reported that when his close friend **Steve Traylor**, '72, who has known Maggie all of her life, learned that she was moving East, he offered to drive her car to Maryland, a testament to the depth of their friendship. Steve and his wife Flor flew to San Diego, picked up Maggie's car and had a leisurely drive back East with stops at Las Vegas, Hoover Dam and the Grand Canyon and visits with **Garry Granger**, '71, in Texas and **Mark Femrite** '72, in Virginia.

The most exciting part of the trip: Steve got two speeding tickets!

In early September, Blaine and Maggie got together with **Scott Rosensteen**, '72, to shoot sporting clays in Maryland. Scott and Blaine had not seen each other since they marched together in the AMA Color Guard at the 2010 reunion. "It was

Blaine and Maggie came to Richmond in September for the meetings of the AMA Alumni Association and AMA Alumni Foundation. After the meetings (see photo above), they were joined by **Phil Bentley**, '83, and **Stride Coleman**, '72, for a sporting clay shoot in Providence Forge.

Says Blaine, "The weather was so beautiful and the Old Forge Sporting Clay facility was just top notch. The shooting initially was social but became competitive. Maggie, a new shooter, hit 25 of 50 with a 20 gauge shotgun. Phil hit 50 of 100, Stride hit 69 of 100 and I fortunately got 75 of 100. We plan to get together to shoot again at the Flying Rabbit in Harrisonburg after the January board meeting in Fort Defiance."

Be with your Friends in Fort Defiance and Staunton for Reunion 2014 24-26 April!

Brain cancer

Coach Ralph Sassaman dies

Former AMA Head Football Coach **Ralph Sassaman** has lost his long battle with brain cancer. Surrounded by his loving family, Sassaman passed away peacefully at home in Bear, DE, on 4 September 2013.



COACH RALPH SASSAMAN, right, shows elation at a good play in the game against Greenbrier in 1969. Wayne Trotter, '70, holds the team's clipboard. Photo by Colonel Savedge.

He was born in Macungie, PA and after he graduated from Emmaus (PA) High School, he attended Fork Union Military Academy where he was a three letter man.

Ralph attended Eastern Kentucky University and when his father died, he transferred to Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, later earning a Masters Degree at Delaware State University.

He began his 36 year coaching and teaching career at Scotland School in Scotland, PA before coming to Augusta to teach and coach in 1968.

He later coached at several other schools in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

He coached NHS football and girls' basketball at Mount Pleasant High School, Christiana High and Glasgow High Schools. Ralph was actively involved with his children's athletic teams serving as coach with the Canal Little League, the Greater Newark Flag Football League and other youth groups.

Ralph is survived by Cindy, his wife of 40 happy years; his daughter, Jamie; and his son, Ryan. He also is survived by two sisters, Dolores and Jane Ann, and a brother, Jim, and a host of dedicated friends and extended family.

Alumni comment on Coach Sassaman

Blaine Clarke, '72: This is awful news. Coach was the kind of man who inspired us to be better men. He will be missed. We can honor him best by living our lives as men of honor always aspiring to do the right thing, even when no one is looking. God bless him and his family.

Steve Trent, '70: I was so sorry to hear about Coach Sassaman. He was a great man and a big supporter of the AMA Alumni Association. I have many good memories of being in his class my senior year. It is hard to believe that he is gone since he never seemed to age.

Garry Granger, '71: So sad to hear this. I expected him to beat it. He was always so young looking and took such good care of himself. My heart is sad. Love to Cindy.

Bruce Crum, '73: This is terrible news. I always enjoyed being with Ralph.

Scott "Crash" Rosenteen, '71: Coach Sassaman did love AMA and all of our brothers. For the last ten years when I was working in Delaware, I would stay overnight and always include Coach in my dinners with my customers, all of whom found him to be a genuine down-to-earth guy. Men like Coach don't grow on

trees. He was very special to me.

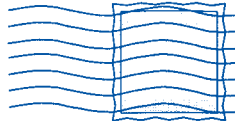
Jorge Roviroso, '71: I was so sorry to hear this. Coach Sassaman really loved AMA and all of our AMA brothers. Rest in peace, Ralph.

Nicky Syropoulos, '69: It was with great sadness that it fell to me to let our AMA brothers know that Ralph had lost his courageous battle against cancer. He was a very special friend and mentor who enjoyed watching Ravens games with our alumni. He has left a big hole in my life.

Former AMA Commandant Colonel William Sedr retires as Fishburne Headmaster

Colonel William Sedr, who taught and coached at AMA 1978-83, has retired as Headmaster at Fishburne Military School. Colonel Sedr will remain at Fishburne to teach history and government. He served as FMS Headmaster for 30 productive years. He is an alumnus of VMI.

Letters to the Editor



Remembering Steve Pearson, '72

At the request of his wife, I accompanied Steve from Florida to the last AMA reunion he was able to attend. He was suffering from a combination of illnesses and sometimes would lose bits of his memory.

Steve was a member of my company at AMA. There is no doubt that his creation of AMAMail was the catalyst in increasing interest and participation by our alumni. Many guys who had lost track of each other met up again through that service created by Steve.

Thank you, Steve, and God bless you and your family.

Jorge Rovirosa, '70

Jorge@Farovi.com

Miami, FL

More memories of Steve Pearson

Steve was one of the most loyal and innovative of all our alumni. We all remember his efforts to get us in touch with each other in the years before texting. He always wanted to do more for his school but his many illnesses held him back.

When we lose someone like Steve, an entire library of memories is gone. God bless him.

Steve Trent, '70

trent@mindspring.com

Suffolk, VA

Steve as *Bayonet* editor

I talked with Steve Pearson on many occasions about helping with *The Bayonet* and eventually becoming its editor. Every time we came up with a plan, Steve would have a setback in his health but he never quit talking about helping though we finally did decide that he was not physically able to take over the editorship.

We will miss him in many ways. There are dozens of our alumni who, after many years out of touch, were able to reestablish contact with classmates and friends through AMAMail, Steve's creative online mail exchange program. This was long before Facebook, texting and all that we are familiar with today.

He was a sterling individual, we will miss him terribly and we extend our sympathy to all who loved him.

Bob Bradford, '50

AMABayonet@aol.com

Folsom, CA

Remembering Jack Field, '47

Jack underwent open heart surgery on Easter weekend to replace his aortic valve. He was making a remarkable recovery and I brought him home on 17 April. He was walking, bathing and dressing, all without help.

On Tuesday 7 May, Jack attended a breakfast with his Bible group and had a wonderful time. That evening, he admitted to being tired and went to bed early. The next morning, I could not wake him. He simply slipped away, no pain, no cries. Such a blessing!

Jack frequently spoke of his days at Augusta, some good and some not so good. He had some very funny stories about life as an AMA cadet, was very proud of having been on the fencing team and enjoyed reading the *Bayonet* stories about the fencing matches at West Point and Annapolis.

I send my kindest regards to the remaining alumni from his class. AMA will always be in my heart.

Margaret (Mrs. Jack, '47) Field
Virginia Beach, VA

Thank you for Roller Scholarship

(The Roller Scholarships, funded by Norvell West, '83, and his company benefit Augusta County children who come from dysfunctional homes. Most enroll in a program called Jacob's Ladder)

My name is Bonca Schaffer and I am a senior at Jacob's Ladder this year. I would like to thank the Augusta Military Academy Foundation for supporting me. It has been an honor to be endorsed by such an honorable institution and I hope that I have met your expectations.

Jacob's Ladder was a life saver for me. My family was going through a very tough time with my older brother and other family matters at the time I was accepted at Jacob's Ladder. The camp and the people in it helped me to focus on my future and not dwell on the unchangeable. They encouraged me to pursue my dreams and goals, to work hard and to lift others up with me.

My younger brother did not have my older brother to look up to for brotherly advice so I had to step up to the plate at a very early age. Every summer, Jacob's Ladder was a stress reliever for me where I could have fun, be with friends, learn and not worry about problems in life.

Unlike most enrichment programs for the gifted and talented, Jacob's Ladder is not only an academically nurturing environment but it builds character. I have been complimented on my maturity, respectfulness, kindness and caring attitude, all characteristics I learned at Jacob's Ladder. Without this experience, I do not know where I would be today.

Every year, Jacob's Ladder sponsors a senior girl and a boy for admission to a boarding school. This year, I was fortunate to be chosen and they supported me with their reputation and helped me through the process. I was very happy when my application to Chatham Hall Boarding School was accepted. Thank you, Mister Hall!

This is an expensive school and without financial aid I could not attend. Jacob's Ladder believed in me so strongly that I received a huge amount of financial aid which covers most of my tuition. To fill the gap, I have a job and this work makes me proud.

I want to thank you again for providing me with this opportunity to be a part of the camp which got me where I am today. One last time, I would ask that you help me to finish the program. *(The Foundation made available another grant to support Bonca's educational advancement)*

Bonca Schaffer, Senior Climber, Jacob's Ladder

10 Years Ago

The AMA Museum marked its third anniversary with a Civil War display.

Duke Fancher, '58, was honored as the man to whom "we owe so much" for his leadership in establishing and operating the museum.

The late **Otto Cuervo, '52**, donated to the museum a Bay of Pigs Coat of Arms under which banner he and his two brothers, both AMA alumni, fought against Castro in Cuba.

The AMA Alumni Association Board of Directors met at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond.

Former AMA Commandant **Marcus Anderson** and PX Manager **Bill Crawford, '35**, passed away.



ROOMMATES - Just before the final Guard Mount at Finals on 7 June 1949, roommates Frank Conley and John "Jock" Shirley pose in front of Big Barracks. Frank graduated from VMI, went into the Air Force and was killed in an auto accident in 1955. Jock served in the US Diplomatic Corps and was the US Ambassador to Tanzania and, for a time, the Acting Director of the USIA – the United States Information Agency. Shirley and his wife, also a former US Ambassador, now live in Stonington, Connecticut.

Steve Pearson worked to get alumni in touch

Steve Pearson, '72, worked hard to get Augusta alumni back in touch with each other when Twitter was



Steve receives an AM Alumni Medal in 1999.

but a sound a bird made and Face Book might have referred to a high school annual. Pearson, troubled with myriad health problems, passed away on 20 July 2013 in Bradenton, Florida at the young age of 59.

In the late 1990's he began what came to be known as AMAMail. Alumni, faculty and AMA friends could send messages to AMAMail and Steve would do a mass e-mailing periodically including all the messages he had received to date.

He was a computer whiz who clearly saw what the future would look like. With his efforts, dozens of alumni who had lost track of AMA friends were happily reconnected.

Steve was a great writer and would have been a fantastic *Bayonet* editor had his health permitted.

For his efforts to bring us closer together, Steve earned an AMA Alumni Medal in 1999.

Good and loyal friend, you will be missed – a lot.

Do your Christmas shopping online at the AMA PX!
AMAAlumni.org/PX



Arlington wreath laying scheduled for 14 December

The annual pre-Christmas wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery is scheduled this year for Saturday 14 December. Once Again, **Greg Pearce, '65**, will take part in the annual event and invites AMA alumni and friends to join him for the emotional experience.

Since 1992, the Maine wreath company which makes Holiday greenery for L. L. Bean, donates thousands of wreaths to be placed at the graves in the famous cemetery. Greg has been one of the hundreds of volunteers who show up on a December Saturday to undertake this honorable task.

If you would like to take part in this historic event, get in touch with Greg at: greg692@yahoo.com

Reenactors in force at next year's reunion

Nicky Syropoulos, '69, expects to have a big turnout of Confederate reenactors at Reunion 2014, the 150th anniversary of the next-to-last year of the Civil War.

Nicky is hoping for another campout and participation by the reenactors in Founder's Day ceremonies in the Stone Church Cemetery. Details in the next issue!

MEMBERS OF THE AMA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The Augusta Military Academy Sports Hall of Fame came into existence in 2008 with the first Hall members inducted at the 2008 reunion. Listed herewith are all the Hall members to date with the years of their inductions.



1969-70 basketball team -
Players Ray Stauffer, Dan
Caldarelli, Jerry Collincini, Jim
Groate, Baxter Hayes, Fred
Lapish, Ray Snapp, Wayne
McGowan, Dan Rapp, and Doug
McMullen. Managers Scott Travers
and Cesar Prieto. (2010)

Morris Guerrant, '42 - boxing (2008)

Dean Hanson, '63 - rifle (2008)

Colonel Paul Hoover - coach of many
sports (2008)

Bill Hummer, '71 - rifle (2008)

Andre Allen, '76 - basketball (2008)

Jerry Izenberg, '48 - sports writer (2008)

Harold "Bud" Allison, '60 - football (2010)

Don Johns, '49 - football, baseball, swimming, basketball,
track (2009)

Ben Angle, '51 - track, lacrosse (2008)

M/Sergeant Joe Josephson - basketball, football coach
(2009)

Manuel Balbis, '53 - wrestling (2011)

Pete Lampman, '65 - basketball (2008)

John Bell, '54 - swimming (2008)

Mal Livick, Jr., '75 - basketball (2010)

Bobby Bowie, '47 - football, baseball, fencing (2013)

Dick Nolan, '50 - football, college and NFL coach (2008)

Wayne Blaylock, '62 - football, basketball, track (2009)

Earl Cabaniss, '43 - baseball, basketball, football, box-
ing (2010)

Bill Parkins, '70 - AMA's number one fan (2010)

Doug Carter, '72 - football, basketball (2013)

Mike Payne, '76 - rifle (2013)

Hanley Carter, '65 - football (2009)

Frank Pilley, '51 - tennis (2008)

Jerry Claiborne - football, basketball coach, National
College Football Coach of the Year (2011)

Bill Ralph - football, basketball coach (2011)

Ernest Click, '48 - swimming (2008)

General Charles S. Roller, Jr. - coach, player and
father of AMA athletics (2008)

Tom DelValle, '73 - rifle (2010)

Julian Quarles, '35 - boxing (2008)

Bill Deuber, '49 - football (2008)

Jim Stillwagon, '67 - football (2008)

Warren Fleming, '72 - football, basketball (2011)

1/Sergeant Don Studer - rifle coach (2009)

Nick Forkovitch, '41 - football (2009)

Dr. Meb Turner, '49 - wrestling, football (2009)

John "Jay" Fox, '53 - swimming (2008)

Burgess Whitehead, '27 - baseball (2008)

Bob Gorgrant, '63 - basketball (2008)

Al Zayas, '72 - lacrosse (2009)

Deadline is 6 December

Nominations are being sought for the 2014 AMA Sports Hall of Fame

Nominations are now being sought for the 2014 Augusta Military Academy Sports Hall of Fame, the sixth year of the popular program honoring AMA faculty and cadets who have won athletic glory, at AMA and afterwards. The 2014 inductees will be named in the first *Bayonet* of 2014 and inductions will take place during the 2014 reunion during the Saturday 26 April reunion in the Memorial Gymnasium.

On the facing page is the list of inductees to date and the year that each entered the Hall. The deadline for nominations to the 2014 Hall is **Friday 6 December 2013**. A ten judge panel will make the final selections. Past Famers earned their selection by having performed admirably at AMA as a player or a coach. Others achieved fame in college or in the professional sports or in sports journalism.

The judges are **Phil Bentley, '83, Doug Carter, '72, Ed**



Click, '50, Colonel Mal Livick, Sergeant Don Studer, Nicky Syropoulos, '69, Roger Messick, '52, Brett Thompson, '75, Frank Williamson, '60, and Blaine Clarke, '72.

Send your nominations to:
E-mail: AMABayonet@aol.com
By FAX to: 916/817-8596
By mail: Sports Hall of Fame,
c/o The Bayonet
1687 Schillers Court
Folsom, CA 95630

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 2013 TO GIVE THE JUDGES TIME TO MAKE THEIR DECISIONS BEFORE THE FIRST 2014 BAYONET COMES OUT.

Former rivals invited to Reunion 2014 events

At the 2013 AMA Reunion, golfers from Fishburne and Fork Union played in the AMA Open at the Waynesboro Country Club. As a matter of fact, the fellows from FUMA won top prize!

In 2014, our former rivals from all the extant and closed military schools will be invited not only to play in the AMA Golf Open on reunion Friday but shoot in the Sporting Clays event on Saturday at the Flying Rabbit in Harrisonburg.

Sporting Clay Chair **Blaine Clarke, '72**, is contacting representatives of Fishburne, Fork Union, Staunton, Hargrave, Massanutten, Randolph-Macon and Greenbrier inviting them to participate in both sporting events at the AMA Reunion.

Golfers will tee off (shotgun start) Friday morning 25 April around 0900 at Golf Chairman **Paul Poluito's** course in Waynesboro.

The Sporting Clays event will be at 1500 on Saturday 26 April at the Flying Rabbit in Harrisonburg.

Trophies will be awarded at both events. Watch for more details in the first *Bayonet* of 2014 and on line at: AMAAlumni.org/Bayonet.

French Toast anyone?

Do you remember the French Toast from the Mess Hall? Well, **Michael Dan Boger, '53**, does and he'd like to know the recipe. His daughter, Cathy Jo, has contacted us asking if anyone can give her the AMA Mess Hall French Toast recipe.

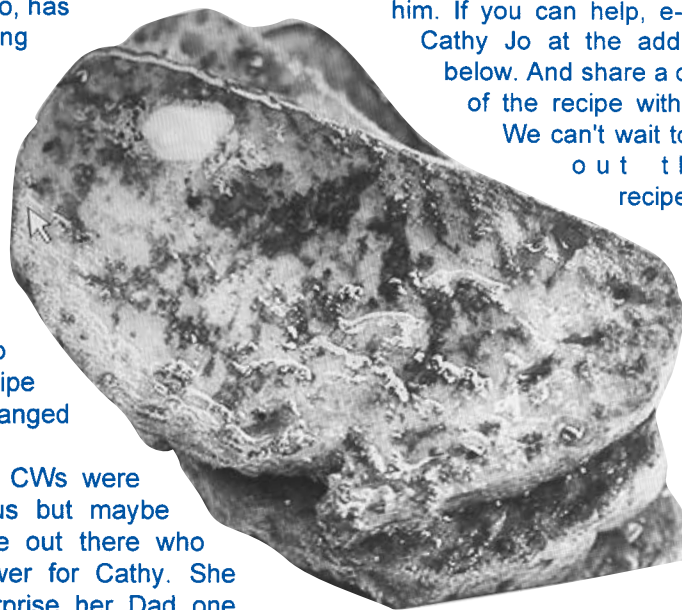
Well? That is one piece of data that we do not have at the Museum. We also wonder if the recipe might have changed over the years.

Several former CWs were unable to help us but maybe there is someone out there who can get an answer for Cathy. She would like to surprise her Dad one morning with the French Toast he remembers so vividly and warmly.

AMA used to bake all of its bread in the 1950s. Most cooks we've talked to use at least two day old bread, even slightly stale bread, and thick enough to fry well on both sides.

But what made the Mess Hall French Toast so memorable to Dan Boger, who has recently been ill?

Cathy Jo is eager to surprise him. If you can help, e-mail Cathy Jo at the address below. And share a copy of the recipe with us. We can't wait to try out this recipe!



If you can help, please send the recipe in an e-mail to: Cathy.J.Blasco@consulatemgt.com.

And copy AMABayonet@aol.com.

Museum Director **Crysta Stephenson** classes this as a "unique request but one that someone can honor!"



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CONTRIBUTIONS

through 30 September 2013

Thank you to these alumni and friends who believe in what we are doing and have committed some of their treasure to support us. The list is unnervingly short but we are so grateful to those who have responded to our pleas for financial support. We continue to need your help.

SPECIAL PATRON

(\$10,000 or more)

Duke Fancher, '58
Estate of Bob Spilman, '45

PATRON

(\$2,500 or more)

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James Weston, '50

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(\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Raymond Anderson, '49
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J. Martin Carstarphen, '52
Mrs. William Charleton, 1915
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Jim Councill, '49
Rob and Kathy Freer
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and Mickey Gordon, '39
John Wayne Hite, '61
John Maragon, FMS, '48
with Chevron Humankind
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Bill McVey, '60
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Ben Smith, '47
Luke Snyder, '60
Mark Sullivan, '77
Frank Williamson, '60

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David Fechheimer, '60

Jack Hodge, '51
Jerry Izenberg, '48
Estate of Worthington
Mahone, '42
Mac McInnis, '67
Roger Messick, '52
Howard Rosenthal, '68
Goodloe Saunders, '57
Frank Spencer, '49
MSGT Don Studer
Jim Sylvanus, '49
Steve Trent, '70
Jim White, '52
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in memory of Phillip Brown, '66
Jim Crawford, '60
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Don Fretz, '48
Bill Ragland, '52
Jeff Sawdey, '76
Albert Smith, '66
George Solan, '43
Paul Sposito, '51
Jim Starnes, '50
Jack White, '69
Charles Winston, '48
Susan Lambert Yates,
Stuart Hall '73
Ben Zinkhan, '60

BLUE LEADER

(\$100 to \$249)

Paula Abel
in memory of Paul Bailey, 1918
John Adams, '41
given by his son in his memory

John Bair, '54

Laura Batt

in honor of my Dad, Bob Bradford

Robert Battenhouse, '59

Benjamin Beard, '65

Mary Plyde Bell

Phil Bentley, '83

John Brill, '72

Charles Brown, '65

Dean Burns, '63

E. Curtis Burt, '45

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SgtMaj Ernest Hoopi, USMC

Frank Hruza, '64

Mike Kidd, '72

Kevin Kissling, '62

Mal and Linda Livick

part in memory of Mrs. Nicholson,
General Nicholson's mother, and

Mrs. Joe Josephson

Rusty Loth, FMS, '54

in memory of his father Francis

Loth, 1916, his uncle, Carl Loth,

1915, and his close friend,

Ronnie Mahanes, '53

Thomas Marlow, '61

John Mayne, '60

Brian McCabe, '72

John McGavock, '46

James McGavock, '46

John McKenna, '50

Sue Messerley

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Brian Miller, '67

George Mineff, '77

Bill Monroe, '49

Charlie Pascale, '69

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Frank Pursel, '45

Robert Rhodes, '63
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 Bill Rubush, '49
 Mark Sauer, '66
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 Rob Overly, '62
 James Riser, '63
 Cole Sandridge, '52
 Juan Santalo, '53
 William Saunders, '53
 David Shearer, '68
 Ron Sollod, '50
in memory of Mevin Alper, '39
 David Trimble, '60

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George Crispen, '48
 James Dean, '46
 Mark Femrite, '71
 Randy Gibbs, '60
 Kelli Harding
 Harry Hodges, '54
 John McCue, '66
 Emanuel Michaels, '47
 Fredrick Roth, '62
 Ken Schroeder
 Nicky Syropoulos, '69
 William Townsend, '54
 Mrs. George Triple, '54
 Mike Wickun, '71
 Peter Wreden, '44

We are grateful to those of you who have contributed and who have pledged to contribute. We need to depend strongly on you and others like you over the next few years to keep our ship afloat. When your budget permits, we hope that you will think of us again. If you have not yet contributed in 2013, isn't it time that you did so?

Remember - your contribution is tax deductible!

We need you – one and all – and hope that you feel that we merit your continued support.



On his way home to Florida from New York, Terry McGurr, '64, came by the Museum this past summer.



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IS THE FUTURE NOW?

APPARENTLY NOT FOR EVERYONE

Our fund raising campaign motto is intended to let all AMA alumni and friends know that if we don't step up to the plate to pledge and contribute NOW, we may have no FUTURE. Some of you got the message. Many did not. It should embarrass some of you to see what you and your classmates must think about our school and its legacy since some classes have yet to commit a single dime! Look at the NEW list below, then look into your heart. Do you want to see the AMA Museum continue? How about *The Bayonet*? Or our Legacy Scholarships? Without your help, we can accomplish little.



We said when we kicked off the program that it would not be successful unless someone in each class took the responsibility of contacting his classmates personally. The truth of that is exhibited below. The classes that did well had someone writing, calling and cajoling his classmates to pledge or contribute. How did your class do? If not well, what are you going to do about it? YOU ARE A STAKEHOLDER IN OUR FUTURE!

Below are UPDATED results. The double underlined numbers are NEW numbers. Totals represent what has been contributed and what has been pledged over the next five years.

<u>1932 - \$100</u>	1954 - \$6775	1970 - \$6,800
<u>1937 - \$25</u>	1955 - \$2,500	1971 - \$700
1939 - \$120	1956 - ZERO!!	<u>1972 - \$12,785</u>
1941 - \$300	<u>1957 - \$720</u>	<u>1973 - \$2,350</u>
1942 - \$800	1958 - \$60,150	1974 - \$50
<u>1943 - \$475</u>	<u>1959 - \$400</u>	1975 - \$1,500
<u>1944 - \$60</u>	<u>1960 - \$9,770</u>	<u>1976 - \$100</u>
1945 - \$700	1961 - \$3,800	<u>1977 - \$2,000</u>
<u>1946 - \$575</u>	1962 - \$5,480	1978 - ZERO!!
1947 - \$4,830	1963 - \$1,800	1979 - ZERO!!
<u>1948 - \$8,225</u>	<u>1964 - \$5,825</u>	1980 - ZERO!!
<u>1949 - \$16,682</u>	<u>1965 - \$425</u>	1981 - ZERO!!
<u>1950 - \$22,400</u>	<u>1966 - \$5,730</u>	1982 - \$100
1951 - \$7,660	<u>1967 - \$8,937</u>	1983 - \$500
1952 - \$15,625	<u>1968 - \$3,150</u>	1984 - ZERO!!
<u>1953 - \$900</u>	<u>1969 - \$1,500</u>	★

Have you made your contribution or pledge? The end of the year is at hand and your contributions are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both Federal and State returns. We need to hear from you NOW! The future really is now because if this campaign fails, our future will look bleak. For the next couple of years before accreditation, IT IS UP TO US TO KEEP THE LAMP LIT!

VIETNAM VETS - ATTENTION!

By Rick Smail, '67

(Reprinted from the Winter 2013 *Bayonet*)

This article is being written in an attempt to share information about Veterans Administration medical benefits with our alumni who are veterans or who may be associated with veterans of the Vietnam War.

It also has a secondary goal of sharing information about presumptive conditions that would allow veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange to receive disability benefits as result of medical conditions that can be initiated from exposure to herbicides. To a large degree it is a reflection of my personal experiences with the VA and my recent awareness of benefits that I did not realize I was eligible to receive. Let me begin by saying until I had breakfast with a friend recently, I had no idea I was eligible for benefits. Somehow in the back of my mind I thought I had not served long enough or in some other way didn't measure up to the standard needed to qualify. I was wrong.

Who is qualified for VA medical benefits? There are many different ways to qualify for benefits, but basically, **if you served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 you are eligible for both VA medical benefits and possibly disability benefits** if you have a disease that can be triggered by exposure to Agent Orange.

When a veteran has a condition that he thinks is a result of his service, usually it is the responsibility of the individual to prove the condition is the result of service related exposure. With Agent Orange the VA has agreed to "presume" certain illnesses are a result of Agent Orange exposure. What that means is if the veteran was in Vietnam anytime between the dates earlier listed, the VA will automatically award disability benefits. Perhaps the condition that most of us are likely to develop is prostate cancer, but here is a list of all the presumptive conditions:

- AL Amyloidosis, a rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs.
- Chronic B-cell Leukemias, types of cancer which affect white blood cells.
- Chloracne (or similar acneform disease), a skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least ten percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.
- Diabetes Mellitus Type 2, a disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.
- Hodgkin's Disease, a malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia.
- Ischemic Heart Disease, a disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain.
- Multiple Myeloma, a cancer of plasma cells, a type of

white blood cell in bone marrow.

- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.
- Parkinson's Disease, a progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement.
- Peripheral Neuropathy, Acute and Subacute, a nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Currently, it must be at least ten percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure and resolve within two years. VA proposed on August 10, 2012, to replace "acute and subacute" with "early-onset" and eliminate the requirement that symptoms resolve within two years.
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda, a disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least ten percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.
- Prostate Cancer, cancer of the prostate, one of the most common cancers among men.
- Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer), cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.
- Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondro-sarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma), a group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues.

Some people may feel uncomfortable about applying for disability benefits when for the most part they are able to conduct their life without restriction. The philosophy behind the benefits (which are tax free) is that the veteran is being compensated for the damage he

or she suffered in connection to service to our country.

One of my motivations in seeking out VA medical benefits is to have a backup or safety net as I find myself approaching Medicare. Once enrolled the VA uses means testing to establish what their services will cost. The most expensive charges are in my opinion very reasonably priced. A 30-day supply of prescription drugs has a copay of \$8.

An outpatient visit has a copay of \$15 and a visit to a specialist \$50. In the event of the need to be hospitalized, the copay for a 90-day hospital stay is \$1156 with an additional \$10 per day per diem.

As a user of the Post Office I do not have a high regard for most government agencies, but I was more than pleasantly surprised by my treatment at the VA. The VA requested that I allow them to do an Agent Orange assessment because of my tour in Vietnam. The assessment required a blood draw (nine tubes), chest x-ray, EKG and an examination by a physician.

I was concerned about how long the waits would be as I passed through the various clinics that specialized in each area. Much to my surprise, the longest I had to wait was five minutes and then the wait would typically be for the technician to setup for the procedure. I am very impressed with the treatment I've received and have no complaints.

(concluded on page 38)

If you were in the Republic of Vietnam between 9 January 1962 and 7 May 1975, you are eligible for VA benefits.



Top, left, "Peachy" Schwartzmann, '63, and Carol aboard elephants in Thailand. Top, right, Ruth and Howard Rosenthal, '68, at Dunluce Castle in Ireland. Bottom, left, Donna and Frank Berg, '80, in New Orleans. Bottom, right, 1950 Classmates Bob Bradford and Ed Click on the Equator in Kenya.

Doolittle Raiders last hurrah

Jack Manch, '38, remembered for his part in historic air attack

It was 1941 and she took her son from Staunton to Washington, DC to have a face-to-face meeting with **General Hap Arnold**, the Commanding General of the U. S. Army Air Corps.

Jack wanted to fly but he stood at six feet seven inches, too tall to be a pilot or copilot. Arnold obviously was impressed with the young man's determination and told him to "hunch his shoulders and bend over a bit."

Jack did so and General Arnold said, "You're in!"

And that is how **Jacob "Jack" Manch, '38**, the son of AMA's bandmaster and German teacher and his talented mother, became a copilot on a B-25 in World War II and eventually became one of 80 aviators in the famous Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, just four months after Pearl Harbor.

Sixteen B-25s were modified to fly from the deck of an aircraft carrier, the first time heavy bombers had embarked on such a one way mission with all the flyers knowing they would not be able to return to the carrier, all hoping to make it to China for a safe landing. (See SPOTLIGHT article on page 30)

Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle flew the lead plane off the USS Hornet and "Shorty" Manch's plane was the third to lift off. They dropped their bombs on Tokyo and flew on as far as they could. Four crash landed, eleven more crews bailed out and three died. Eight were captured by Japanese troops and three were executed while another died of starvation in a prison camp. One crew made it to Russia where our "ally" kept them interned until the war ended.

Baby Ruths shucked out of Jack's shirt

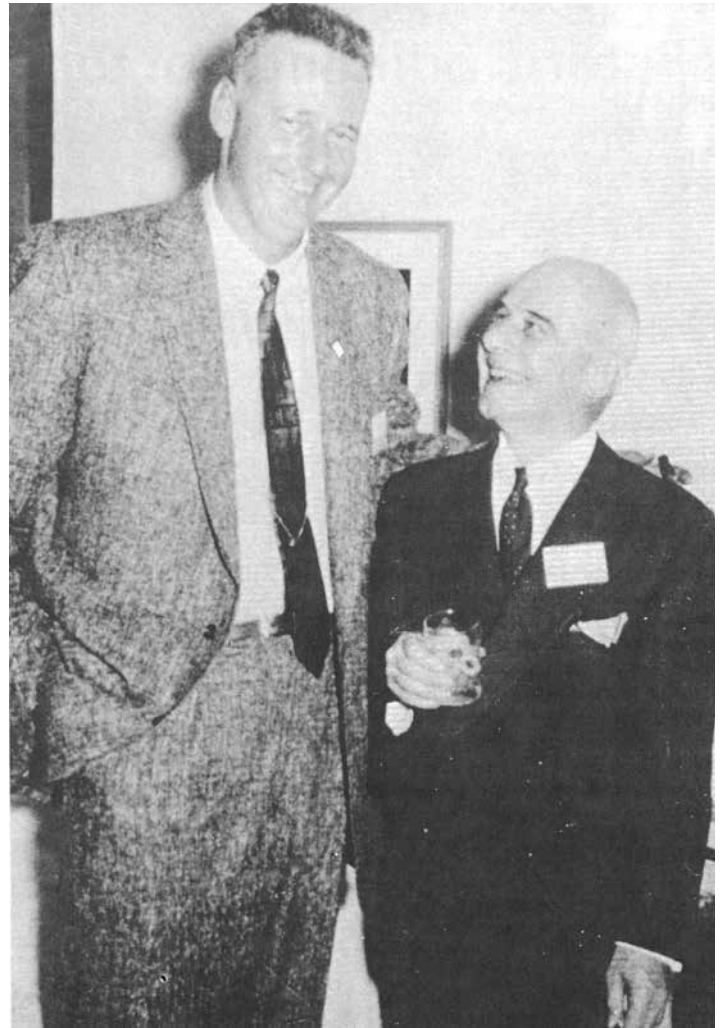
Shorty bailed out over China and made it to the ground in one piece while dozens of Baby Ruth candy bars stuffed in his shirt were shucked out when his chute opened. The Chinese had never seen a six foot seven giant before and he had to convince them that he was an American by thumbing his nose at a Japanese flag.

Eventually, with the help of the Chinese, Jack and others made it back to American lines. He returned to duty and later flew combat missions in the Korean War.

Of the 80 Raiders, 62 survived the war. Spencer Tracy and Van Johnson starred in *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*, a hit movie that pretty much stuck to facts. Jack was portrayed in the movie as a fun loving guy who had stashed a record player and records on another plane so they could party when they got to China.

Starting in 1946, the survivors began to have a reunion each April. As a gesture of respect, the city of Tucson presented the Raiders with a set of 80 silver goblets, each engraved with the name of a Raider.

When a Raider passes away, his goblet is turned upside down. The wooden case holding the goblets also contains a bottle of 1896 Hennessy Very Special cognac, bottled the year Jimmy Doolittle was born. The plan always has been that the last two survivors of the Raid would share the cognac.



LOOKING UP - This faded photo shows Jack Manch, '38, towering above the diminutive General Jimmy Doolittle at a reunion of Doolittle Raiders in the 1950s. Jack died in a plane crash in 1958 while General Doolittle lived until 1993, dying at age 96.

Jack's goblet was turned upside down in 1958 when he steered his crippled trainer away from the Las Vegas residential area and crash landed in the unforgiving desert. He was 39.

As 2013 began, there were five living Raiders; then, Tom Griffin passed away at age 96. Now four remain: Dick Cole, who was Doolittle's co-pilot, Robert Hite, Edward Saylor and David Thatcher, all in their 90s.

They have decided to hold no more public reunions. They do plan to get together privately soon when they will open the bottle of cognac and drink to the 76 Raiders who have passed on.

Jack "Shorty" Manch will be honored and all AMA alumni and friends will keep him in their hearts forever.

A brave man twice a hero, an Augusta man of whom we can all be proud.



Boards meet in Richmond, approve independent audit for Foundation, major changes in next reunion

Meeting in the State Capital, the AMA Alumni Association Board approved several changes to Reunion 2014 while AMA Alumni Foundation Trustees approved an independent audit, a requirement of the agency which will accredit the AMA Museum.

Alumni Association President **Steve Trent, '70**, reported that a Thursday welcoming reception will be added to the 2014 reunion schedule while the Saturday luncheon, traditionally held in the AMA Gymnasium, will be held instead in John Craig Hall at the Augusta Stone Church.

The theme of the reunion will be "The Burning," the 150th anniversary of the destruction of the Valley by Union troops in 1864. The Friday motor coach tour will retrace the path



of the Union Army as it moved north from Fort Defiance, torching mills, barns and homes. A large contingent of Confederate reenactors is expected to be on campus for the reunion.

Luke Snyder, '60, was elected Vice President replacing **Harry Campbell, '70**, who had resigned.

The Foundation, chaired by **Blaine Clarke, '72**, heard **Museum Director Crysta Stephenson** report on progress toward getting the museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, an action that will move us up in the line to receive private and government grants. She reported on the new interns in the office funded by **Mrs. Helen Charleton** in memory of her husband, **William, Class of 1915**. (See pages 22-23) The decision was made to keep the company which processes our credit card charges.

Trustee Roger Messick, '52, suggested that all who did not re-

TRUSTEE ROGER MESSICK, '52, left, asks that those who did not respond to the First Class letters asking support for the Future is Now campaign receive another letter. Chaplain Frank Spencer, '49, right, approves.

spond to the last First Class letter asking for support of the Future is Now campaign receive another First Class letter. His motion was approved. **Paul Karch, '79**, reported that he is working with an alumni



Phil Bentley, '83, AMA Legacy Scholarship Chairman, and former Foundation Chair Frank Williamson, '60, listen to the report on Foundation finances.

Grants Committee to explore the availability of grant money before accreditation. There was also discussion of a possible museum for all military schools potentially under the auspices of AMA. The Foundation authorized up to \$4,600 for painting and repair work at the Museum to be accomplished by **Brett Thompson, '75**, and \$2,000 to partially fund the **Roller Scholarships** to support disadvantaged youth in Augusta County. (See *Letters to the Editor*, page 8)

In attendance at the meetings were Trent, Clarke, Messick, Spencer, Bentley, Williamson, Karch, Snyder, **Victor Gomez, '69**, **Stride Coleman, '72**, **Chris Meek, '84**, **Rick Smail, '67**, **George Reaves, '69**, and **Bob Bradford, '50**.



PAUL KARCH, '79, explains that he is working with the Grants Committee to explore the possibility of a grant or grants even before the Museum gets its accreditation.

Make nominations now for 2014 AMA Alumni Medal

Now is the time to make nominations for the AMA Alumni Medals to be awarded at Reunion 2014.

For the past sixteen years, the AMA Alumni Medal has been given to those who have either done some "big" thing for the Alumni Association or the Alumni Foundation, or who have made a major contribution to our mission by a series of smaller actions.

Fifty one of the 63 medalists have been AMA alumni. Four were faculty members and others include a museum volunteer, a Foundation trustee, a Fort Defiance High School "BFF," our landlord, friends from Fishburne Military School and Missouri Military Academy, a Roller family contributor and the producer of *The Bayonet*.

Five medalists have been women.

Send your nomination(s) to: THE AMA ALUMNI MEDAL, P.O. BOX 100, FORT DEFIANCE, VA 24437-0100.

Or e-mail your nomination(s) to: AugustaMilitaryAcademy@verizon.net

The Medals Selection Committee is chaired by **Blaine Clarke, '72**, and its members are **Steve Trent, '70**, **Phil Bentley, '83**, **Goodloe Saunders, '57**, **Bob Bradford, '50**, and **Frank Williamson, '60**.

All nominations must be received by 2 March 2014. Selections will be announced at the Saturday luncheon during Reunion 2014 (Saturday 26 April).



Past recipients of the AMA Alumni Medal

Joseph Salicrup, '31*
Col. Will Parkins, '35*
Julian Quarles, '35
Bill Gray, '37*
Mickey Gordon, '39*
V. P. Leavel, '39*
Bobby Rhea, '47*
Paul Bratton, '48*
Ed Chauncey, '49
Jim Councill, '49
Clyde Ramsey, '49
Frank Spencer, '49
Bob Bradford, '50
Ed Click, '50
Jim Starnes, '50
Hap Starr, '51*
Tommy Simmons, '52*
Ozzie Ferro, '53
Ronnie Mahanes, '53*
Bob Harris, '54
Parker Ward, '54*
Goodloe Saunders, '57
Jerry Wildman, '57
Duke Fancher, '58
Terry Snow, '58*
Dave Conrad, '59
George Holt, '60
Bill Mariner, '60
Luke Snyder, '60
Frank Williamson, '60
Ben Zinkhan, '60
Bruce Nicholson, '62
Bob Hume, '63
Greg Pearce, '65
Mac McInnis, '67
Rick Smail, '67
Nicky Syropoulos, '67
Gordon Metz, '68

Victor Gomez, '69
B. J. d'Orsay, '70
Gary Nicholson, '70*
Jorge Roviroso, '70
Steve Trent, '70
Garry Granger, '71
Doug Carter, '72
Tom DelValle, '72
Steve Pearson, '72
Chuck Pennock, '72
Bruce Strange, '72
Steve Traylor, '72
Norvell West, '84
Chief Chester Cole*
Dr. Mary DeCredico+
Rev. Greg Douglas
Chuck Foley^
Hilton Roller Grasty*
Bruce Hemp^^
Sgt. Joe Josephson*
John Maragon^^^
Sue Messerley++
Coach Bill Ralph*
Sgt. Don Studer
Joyce Zinkhan
(Mrs. Ben, '60)

* Deceased

^ Missouri Military Academy

^^ Fort Defiance High School

^^^ Fishburne Military School

+ Foundation Trustee

++ Mid Valley Press

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POTUS VISIT - Major General Larry Nicholson, '75, Commander of the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California, introduces the President to his Marines. The President visited Pendleton in August.



Above, left, Rolando Bianchi, '79, and his son visited the Museum from Guatemala. Above, center, Lynne and Bob Brown came to see the campus where his late brother, Phillip "Dee Dee" Brown, '66, attended. The Browns are purchasing a memorial paver in his memory. Above, right, L. Gordon Bennett, '66, visited the Museum for the first time in June. He is a retired Richmond City Police Officer. Gordon said when the words "ROTC" were taken off AMA's guidons, his mother made new ones for the Cadet Corps.

First William Charleton interns

Written by Sarah Rico in collaboration with Jordan Stordahl

Have you ever wondered what an average day is like at the AMA Museum? When I began working at AMA, I thought it was going to be an easy, laid back kind of place where we would have to look constantly for something to do. I was really wrong, for there is always something that needs to be done here.

Crysta Stephenson begins the day by opening the Museum and checking her emails before the interns and volunteers show up to see if there is anything to add to her "to-do" list for the day. From there she spends the rest of the day answering e-mails, issuing checks, making deposits and updating financial records, answering the phones, working with the collections and fielding all sorts of tasks.

Doug, Ben, and Goodloe are busy juggling research that needs to be done and taking care of every visitor who walks through the door. Walk throughs and tours can last an hour or more depending on how long the walk down memory lane goes. They research the files for cadets who want pictures from back in the day and make copies of gradebook pages for alumni who are applying for college or new jobs.

Meanwhile, the phones keep on ringing.

Last, but certainly not the least, we two **Charleton Interns** are busy working on projects. Jordan is diligently working on the privacy policy that she spent hours researching and critiquing. I'm Sarah and I'm working on an intern guidebook that outlines rules to follow while you work at AMA. Of course, our work load fluctuates day to day.

The **William Charleton, '1915**, In-

tern Program was made possible by the generous donation made by his widow, Helen. Due to her long-term commitment, two paid intern positions will be offered every summer for the next twenty years. Interns are allowed to work up to 300 hours in the museum and may carry the internship on into the fall semester.

Jordan is a political science major at Bridgewater College with an interest in foreign conflicts. During her free time, she trains and competes with her thoroughbred horse, Blue. She thrives in a discuss-



Charleton Intern Jordan Stordahl

ion-based environment and is passionate about learning about international conflicts. Don't tell her parents, but Jordan wants to study conflict in the Middle East or Africa.

I am a communications studies major with a concentration in public relations and I also attend Bridgewater College. Originally, I didn't want to go to college but after much encouragement from my mother, I applied for Bridgewater, got funding and was able to fulfill my/her dream of being the first in five generations to go to college straight out of high school.

When I got to Bridgewater, I discovered communications and found

out I am really good at it! I am originally from Las Vegas but now spend all of my time in Staunton. I thrive in crisis management and hope to work for the FBI as a special agent.

We have completed a number of jobs since arriving at AMA: gone through hundreds of files, reading each page and putting them in order. From the files, Jordan and I were able to create a number of projects. Jordan was able to develop a better privacy policy by providing solutions on how we control access

to the files. In addition, she developed a confidentiality statement for all staff members to read and sign. She was also able to complete a paper that profiled some exemplary files while finding the contribution AMA had in their lives.

On top of the privacy policy and the profile paper, Jordan has also been working on a project assigned to her by Crysta dealing with the book *Don't Fence Me In!* by **Barry Spanjaard, '48**.

I was able to come up with the cadet of the month for the monthly newsletter and reorganize the filing system. I got the idea from

numerous heartwarming letters I read between **Major Roller** and the cadets. I have also worked on the redesign of the monthly electronic newsletter, created new cadet of the month articles, finished the internship guidebook, and worked on public relations opportunities for the museum and the internship.

When left a letter by Executive Director Crysta asking what we thought about AMA, Jordan and I had a long discussion based on the questions asked. When asked what she liked about the internship, Jordan jokingly answered, "*The pay.*" After serious consideration, we both agreed we liked the indepen-

hard at work in AMA Museum

dence of the job. We are able to bring our work and ideas to Crysta and receive encouragement to pursue our projects. Personally, I am also a fan of the environment and the people I work with. Jordan, Crysta and the volunteers have been so much fun to be around and I like come into work every morning.

We were also asked what we liked least about the internship. Jordan wished that we could open the windows! She believes the day would be enjoyable if we could open the big beautiful windows and feel the sun and breeze while we worked. Being someone who doesn't have airconditioning at my house and goes day-to-day doing just what Jordan suggested, I couldn't help but agree. We compromise every day when we enjoy our lunch on the front porch.

Upon beginning our internship at AMA, Jordan and I had little knowledge of the military. We also had little knowledge of the area and its history. Since then we have learned a lot about rankings in the military, penalties and proper conduct, among other things. We have also learned how previous wars have affected the Augusta County area.

Through the cadet files, we were able to learn about how the school was operated and what disciplinary system was used here. All these things are reflected in the values we believe AMA held dear. From letters we have read written by cadets and staff, honor was something that was very important to everyone who attended AMA. Major Roller always rewarded those who did the honorable thing, even if they had misbehaved. He gave them many opportunities to become honorable gentlemen.

Discipline helped a lot of cadets

become fine young men and seems to still be with most of the alumni. Though there are numerous files, there were many demonstrations of the importance of discipline. We saw time and time again that when discipline was disregarded by cadets, they ultimately had to answer for what they had done – whether it be a demerit or expulsion.

One thing that has struck Jordan and me after reading the cadet files and watching how the AMA Alumni Foundation works is what a strong support system AMA had and still has to this day. We can only hope



Charleton Intern Sarah Rico

Bridgewater can provide us with half the support that is demonstrated by AMA's alumni. AMA's extensive alumni network should be used as a model for colleges and universities across the country.

The thing that seems to baffle Jordan and me is the generosity of the Roller family. Please do not think we are cynical, but people just don't believe in other people the way they used to. The world has hardened most of us and as time has passed we have been less willing to trust or go out on a limb for someone else. We live in a world of instant gratification and maybe that has affected our willingness to

take risks.

When going through the files, Jordan and I have found countless examples of many members of the Roller family taking risks on boys who they deemed worthy. In many accounts, Major Roller tried to accept boys he believed needed AMA and would benefit from everything the school stood for, even if they didn't have the funds to attend.

There were also files of boys doing things that would get students expelled from schools today but the Roller family gave them second, and in some cases, third chances. The generosity shown by the Roller family changed many lives for the better.

The final question on which Jordan and I reflected was would we encourage others to apply for these internships and the answer is a resounding yes.

Working at AMA has been educational and enjoyable for both of us. We like who we work with and though interns in the future may not be able to get such fabulous partners to hang with, they will be able to meet people they would have never talked to before – even possibly from their

school.

This is how I feel about Jordan. Even though we are both Bridgewater students, we met for the first time here at this internship. We have had good times here at AMA and probably wouldn't have gotten to know each other without it.

The internship is also really interesting. *"It is an internship that lends itself to many interests,"* according to Jordan, and she could not be more right. We were able to customize the work in our internships to suit our fields of study.

The future may be unknown for Jordan and me but one thing is for sure: we will not forget our summer at AMA.

60 years after the armistice**AMA men served with valor in the Korean War**

A St. Louis newspaper reported on a series of questions asked of Missouri high school seniors at their graduation ceremonies. All had heard of World War Two and most thought of it as a "good" war although many could not name the countries against which the United States fought.

All but a few had heard about the Vietnam War and almost universally they thought of it as a "bad" war.

And the Korean War in which 33,686 Americans died? Less than half of the graduating seniors knew anything at all about the conflict which correctly has been called "The Forgotten War."

Coming as it did between the great worldwide conflict and the angst of Vietnam, the Korean War (or "Police Action" or "Korean Conflict" as it was known initially) has faded from many memories but not from the memories of those who were in our country's uniform at that time.

Three AMA alumni lost their lives in the Korean War – **Fred Hayes, '46, Rahily Rhodes, '47, and Gloyd Rosen, '51.** Several hundred Augusta men served during the war, nearly 200 of whom self-identified themselves as having been on active duty during the war. **Master Sergeant Don Studer** compiled a roster of Korean War vets which is reproduced (BELOW).

The official dates for the war are 27 June 1950 through 31 January 1955, dates set by the Veterans Administration, though the armistice was signed on 27 July 1953, 60 years ago. The war began when Communist North Korea crossed the 38th Parallel, a border created after World War Two by American administrators who thus divided the Korean peninsula.

South Korea was supported by the United Nations and the United States while North Korea was backed by Communist China and the USSR. The US provided nearly 90 per cent of the 341,000 international soldiers who served during the war. After initial successes by UN forces, Communist China sent in troops which altered the war.

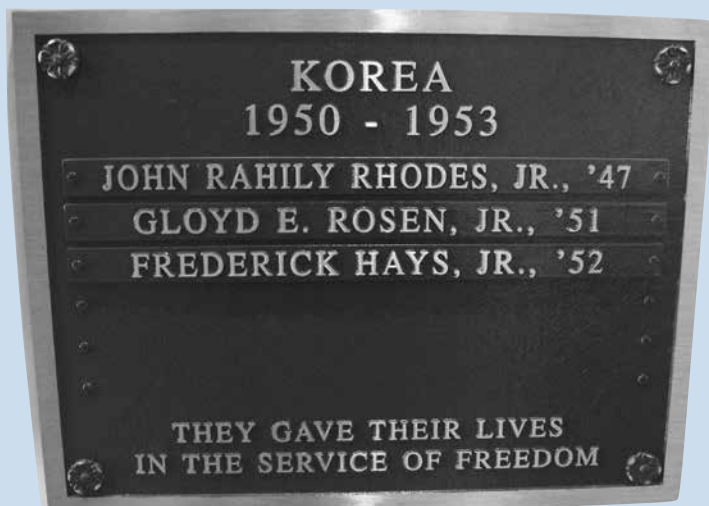
Listed herewith is the roster created by Sergeant Studer. If you served in our military between 27 June 1950 and 31 January 1955 and your name is not on the roster, let us know and we'll add your name in the next issue.

**AMA KOREAN WAR VETERANS**

(service between 6/27/50 and 1/31/55
as stipulated by the Veterans Administration)

KEY: USA = US Army
USN = US Navy
USMC = US Marine Corps
USAF = US Air Force
USCG = US Coast Guard
UNK = Unknown branch of service
K = Korean War service
V = Vietnam War service
WWII = World War II service
KIA = Killed in action

CAPT Stanley Strong, '20 USN, WWII & K
LTC George Jones, '22 USA, WWII & K
BG Fred Coleman, '28 USA, WWII & K
COL Collas Harris, '28 USA, WWII & K
James Adam, '30 USN Air, WWII, K & V
COL E.W.H. Hanson, '30 USA, WWII & K
COL Collas Harris, '30 USA, WWII & K
RADM Joseph Yon, '30 USN, WWII, K & V
MG Robert Taylor, '31 USAF, WWII, K & V
CAPT George Barber, '32 USA, WWII & K
CAPT Ben Chiswell, '32 USCG, WWII, K & V
LTG William Martin, '33 USAF, WWII, K & V
David Robertson, '33 USN, WWII & K
COL John Hodges, '35 USA, WWII & K
James Andes, '36 USA, WWII & K
COL William Dickinson, '36 USMC, WWII, K & V
COL Sam Jordan, '36 USAF, WWII & K
LTC Thomas Tighe, '36 USA, WWII & K
James Andes, '38 UNK, WWII & K
COL Heston Cole, '38 USA, WWII & K
CAPT Larry Kurtz, '38 USN, WWII & K
V. P. Leavel, '38 USA, WWII & K
MAJ George Neal, '38 USA, WWII & K
LTC Douglas Netherwood, '38 USAF, WWII, K & V
COL William Reisacher, '38 USA, WWII, K & V
MG Charles Ryder, '38 USA, WWII, K & V
COL Clarence MacEwan, '39 UNK, WWII & K
MAJ Robert Mitchell, '39 USAF, WWII & K
Allen Potts, '39 USMC, WWII & K
COL Brent Riley, '39 USA, WWII & K
COL Buckner Creel, '40 USA, WWII, K & V
RADM Julian Lake, '40 USN, WWII, K & V
LTC Nathan Adams, '41 USMC, WWII, K & V
LTC Victor Dalmas, '41 USA, WWII, K & V
Michael Elliott, '41 USAF, K & V
COL Eli Lloyd, '41 USMC, K & V
Ashby Patterson, '41 USA, WWII & K
COL Joseph Wasco, '41 USA, K & V
DR Morton Alper, '42 USA, WWII & K
COL Rutland Beard, '42 USA, WWII, K & V
MAJ Christopher Harrison, '43 USA, K
BG William Louisell, '43 USA, K & V
COL Worthington Mahone, '43 USA, WWII & K
Robert Powell, '43 USA, WWII, K & V
William Tuminella, '43 USAF, K & V
Harry Breitstein, '44 Medic, USA, K & V
Robert Brewer, '44 USN, K & V
COL John Dashiell, '44 USA, K & V
COL Richard Hobbs, '44 USA, K
COL William Thomas, '44 WWII, K & V
Clarence Bailes, '45 USA, K



PREVIOUSLY DISPLAYED IN THE FRONT ARCH, the plaque honoring AMA's three Korean War KIAs now hangs in the AMA Museum. (Hays last year at AMA was 1946, not 1952)



**1LT Rahily Rhodes,
Class of 1947**

Just six days before the Korean War ended, **Rahily Rhodes, Jr., '47**, was killed in action. Rahily was a First Lieutenant in B Company, 187th Regimental Combat Team, US Army. His family did not hear about his death until several days after the 27 July armistice.



**PFC Gloyd Rosen,
Class of 1951**

Gloyd Rosen, '51, was a PFC in the Marine Corps and died on 7 October 1952. His body has never been recovered and the details of his death are unclear. It is known that he had been slightly wounded weeks before he was killed.



**2LT Fred Hays,
Class of 1946**

Just five days before his 24th birthday, **Fred Hays, '46**, stepped on a land mine and was killed 22 September 1952. He was in Company G, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Division. He had been wounded on 9 August and had just returned to duty the day before he was killed.

DR Donald Carlisle, '45 USMC, K
Robert Caudill, '45 USA, K
Richard Freeman, '45 UNK, K
LTC Garnet Ramsey, '45 USA, K & V
Robert Spilman, '45 USA, K
FSO Fred Thomas, '45 USMC, K
Harry Barnes, '46 USA, K
COL Thomas Cohoon, '46 USAF, K & V
William Crosby, '46 USA, K
John English, '46 USAF, K & V
Nathaniel Grace, '46 USA, K
*2LT Frederick Hays, '46 USA, K, KIA
Donald Larrick, '46 USA, K
COL Jimmy Pigg, '46 USA, K & V
George Snarr, '46 USA, K
Les Zittrain, '46 USN, K
BG C. Robert Bradford, '47 VANG, K & V
COL Samuel Conley, '47 USA, K & V
COL Richard Dutton, '47 USA, K & V
John Field, '47 USAF, K & V
Gerald Gibbs, '47 USA, K & V
John Herring, '47 USAF, K
COL/DR Harley Hope, '47 USAF, K & V
Dwight Leavell, '47 USN, K
COL Lewis Lepper, '47 USA, K & V
COL John Lynch, '47 USMC, USAF, K & V
John Pappas, '47 USAF, K
Thomas Phillips, '47 USA, K
Frank Quattrone, '47 UNK, K
*1LT John Rahily Rhodes, '47 USA, K, KIA
William Sumner, '47 USN, K & V
Herbert Tutwiler, '47 USA, K
John Winn, '47 USAF, K
Richard Young, '47 USAF, K & V
William Aldrich, '48 USA, K
James Melvin Bazemore, '48 USMC, K
Paul Bratton, '48 USA, K
LTC James Chezem, '48 USA, K & V
Russell Cleek, '48 USAF, K
Ernest Click, '48 USMC, K
Clarke Cooper, '48 USA, K
DR Herbert Deane, '48 USN, K
Leslie Fifer, '48 USA, K
William Floyd, '48 UNK, K
Robert Graber, '48 USAF, K
COL Howard Guffey, '48 USAF, K & V
Paul Hancock, '48 USA, K
William Harris, '48 USA, K
Lloyd Henry, '48 USN, K
Donald Heppner, '48 USA, K
Frank Hickish, '48 USN, K
Archie Holliday, '48 USA, K
Jerry Izenberg, '48 USA, Stars & Stripes, K
Thad Lora, '48 USA, K
Charles Lukens, '48 USA, K

Stuart Nelson, '48 USA, K & V
 Allen Penny, '48 USA, K
 William Rand, '48 USA, K
 Frank Scott, '48 USA, K
 John Seibold, '48 USAF, K
 Wellyn Sellers, '48 USA, K
 Merle Thomas, '48 USA, WWII & K
 COL Joe Volpe, '48 USA, K & V
 Harold Walters, '48 USN, K
 Raymond Anderson, '49 USA, K
 Noah Buchman, '49 USA, K
 Brooke Chamblin, '49 USAF, K
 Ed Chauncey, '49 USAF, K
 William Cole, '49 USAF, K
 COL James Councill, '49 USAF, K & V
 LTC William Dickinson, '49 USA, K & V
 COL Robert Dunn, '49 USA, WWII, K & V
 LTC Gray Kinnie, '49 USA, K & V
 Kenneth Lacy, '49 USA, K
 James Robert Lane, '49 USA, USN,
 USMC, USCG, K & V
 Gordon Leckie, '49 USA, K
 Francis Litton, '49 USMC, K
 Winston Lora, '49 USAF, K
 John Marozza, '49 USA, K
 Thorne McLoney, '49 USA, K
 1LT John Morris, '49 USA, K
 Pete Pappas, '49 USA, K
 George Philopoulos, '49 USA, K
 Charles Pine, '49 USA, K
 James Ragsdale, '49 USMC, K & V
 Clyde Ramsey, '49 USA, K
 Jim Shively, '49 USMC, K
 John Shonts, '49 USA, K & V, Pilot
 CAPT Theodore Shonts, '49 USA, K
 Robert Simpson, '49 USA, K
 Elmer Singers, '49 USA, K
 CMD Stuart Sorg, '49 USN, K & V
 LTC Frank Spencer, '49 USAF, K & V
 Robert Ayres, '50 USAF, K & V
 John Barrett, '50 USA, K
 CAPT Robert Bradford, '50 USA, K
 George Chandler, '50 USAF, K
 LTC Edwin Click, '50 USA, K & V
 COL John Cole, '50 USA, K & V
 John Crockett, '50 Med Tech, USAF, K
 Bayne Culley, '50 USAF, K
 COL William Grace, '50 USA, K & V
 Paul Hays, '50 USA, K
 Rodgers Huff, '50 USMC, K
 Charles Mather-Smith, '50 USA, K
 Donald Matthews, '50 USA, K
 Henry Patterson, '50 USCG, K
 Bill Paxton, '50 USAF, K
 Parham Price, '50 USAF, K

John "Jack" Russell, '50 USAF, K
 Mack Saunders, '50 USAF, K
 John Shillinglaw, '50 USN, Seabees, K
 1LT James Starnes, '50 USAF, K
 Robert Tomczak, '50 USA, K
 Richard Young, '50 USN, K
 CAPT William Ault, '51 USN, K & V
 MCPO Alfred Cleveland, '51 USN, K & V
 Archie Crawford, '51 USA, K
 Forest Gill, '51 USA, K
 James Huntsberry, '51 USA, K
 Bob Knox, '51 USA, K & V
 Eugene Leverett, '51 USN, K
 Charles Madden, '51 USAF, K
 Donald Odenwaelder, '51 USA, K
 *Gloyd Rosen, '51 USA, K, KIA
 Wayne P. Sanders, '51 USA, K
 Charles "Hap" Starr, '51 USAF, K
 Rod Willey, '51 USA, K
 Ed Woodward, '51 USA, K
 Daniel Yellott, '51 USA, K
 CAPT Edwin Armbruster, '52 USAF, K & V
 SGT Henry Harris, '52 USA, K
 Fred Kunc, '52 USAF, K & V
 MAJ Roger Messick, '52 USA, K & V
 Ralph Parker, '52 USA, K
 1/SGT Jess Martindale, '53 USA, K & V
 Thomas O'Donnell, '53 USMC, K
 Tommy Simmons, '53 USA, K
 Orosman Ferro, '54 USAF, K
 Ronnie Mahanes, '54 USA, K
 Franklin Shiplett, '54 USA, K & V
 Tommy Simmons, '54 USA, K
 REV E. Lee Trinkle, '54 USA, K & V

FACULTY

LTC James Christy, F USA, WWII & K
 CPO Chester Cole, F USN, K & V
 MAJ Charles Dillow, F USA, K & V
 COL Cyrus Gibbs, F USA, K
 CW4 Maxwell Hutton, F USA, WWII & K
 M/SGT Sivert Josephson, F USA, K & V
 COL Malcolm Livick, F USAF, K
 CAPT John Mendleson, F UNK, K
 REV William Ralph, F USA, K
 COL David Rapp, f USMC, K & V
 S/SGT Richard Schwartz, F USA, K
 CAPT Howard Sharp, F USA, K
 M/SGT John Thornton, F USA, WWII & K
 SGT John Wallace, F USA, WWII & K
 LT COACH Nicholas Wilk, F USMC, K

TRUSTEE

LTG Arch Sproul CG, 29th DIV, WWII, K & V



AMA Legacy Scholarship winners through the years

Thanks go to **Ed Click, '50**, for creating this complete list of those who have received AMA Legacy Scholarships since the program's inception in 1994.

YEAR	SCHOLAR	AMA CONNECTION
1994	Amy de Ayora	Mike, '65
1995	Michael Yerkey	Bob, '61
1996	Albert Leatherman	George, '39
1997	David Click	Ed, '50
1998	Elizabeth Webster	John, '24
1998	Jamie Saunders	Goodloe, '57
1999	Bill Click	Ed, '50
1999	Joanna Core	John, '51
1999	Chad Lampman	Peter, '65
1999	Victoria Rovirosa	Jorge, '70
1999	Emily Steele	John, '61
1999	Laura Zinkhan	Ben, '60
2000	Allison Arthur	John, V, '75
2000	Addy Hodges	King Edward, '41
2000	Justin Morgan	Frank Spencer, '49
2000	Elie Murphy	Mark Femrite, '71
2000	Victoria Rovirosa	Jorge, '70
2000	Emily Steele	John, '61
2000	Sam Taliaferro	Paul, '62
2000	Laura Zinkhan	Ben, '60
2001	Scott Wooten, III	Scott, Jr, '66
2001	Allison Arthur	John, V, '75
2002	Peter Baxter	Mickey Toms, '67
2002	Suzanne Beard	Ben, '65
2002	Megan Spigle	Mark, '74
2003	Peter Baxter	Mickey Toms, '67
2003	Suzanne Beard	Ben, '65
2003	Megan Spigel	Mark, '74
2004	Fallon Abel	Bailey, '18
2004	John Arthur, VI	John, V, '75
2004	Daniel Sagmiller	Stokes Daniels, '49
2005	Jason Bare	Michael, '49
2005	Jodie Kalvin	Albert, '65
2005	Mal Livick, III	Mal, Jr., '75
2006	John Arthur, VI	John, V, '75
2006	Casey Nicol	Rob, '67
2006	Robert Sagmiller	Stokes Daniels, '49
2007	April Baker	Gary Sheffer, '66
2007	Elizabeth Brandt	William Anderson, '28
2007	William Welte	William, '38
2008	Abigail Deal	Bernard Graves, '28
2008	Andrew Leach	Ed, '69
2008	Mallory Mitchell	Jim, '76
2008	Casey Nicol	Rob, '67
2008	Rebecca Daniels	Stokes, '49
2009	Taylor Daniels	Stokes, '49
2009	Amanda Braddock	Dave Conrad, '59
2009	Norvell West, IV	Norvell, III, '83
2010	Brittany Burke	Chuck Pine, '49
2010	Blaine Frohlich	Ken, '74
2010	Todd Livick, Jr.	Todd, '81
2011	Rebecca Daniels	Stokes, '49
2011	Ross Hash	Jim, '72
2011	Andrew Props	Roy, '67
2012	Kathleen Ritter	Ken Pezzulla, '45
2012	Hobie Proctor	Tomme Gamewell, '54
2012	Riley Meek	Chris, '84
2013	Lauren DuVal Lane	Tony Webster, '57
2013	Taylor Livick	Todd, '81
2013	Mary Katlyn Smith	Albert, '66

Three \$2,000 Scholarships will be awarded at Reunion 2014

The AMA Alumni Foundation will be offering three Legacy Scholarships in 2014, each worth \$2,000 for attendance at educational institutions above the high school level.

These stipends will be awarded at Reunion 2014 (24-26 April) to direct descendants of AMA alumni. This includes children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, *et al* whether natural, adopted or step.

Applicants must be 25 years of age or younger and be enrolled in or about to enroll in an institution above the high school level.

There are three ways to obtain a scholarship application:

- Download it from: www.AMAAlumni.org
- Request it from: AugustaMilitaryAcademy@verizon.net
- Write SCHOLARSHIP, AMA Alumni House/Museum, P. O. Box 100, Fort Defiance, VA 24437

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 1 MARCH 2014

All applicants will be notified by U. S. Mail whether or not they receive a scholarship. **Those who will be awarded scholarships are requested to attend the AMA Awards Banquet at Reunion 2014 on Saturday evening 26 April.**

Two of the scholarships will be awarded based on grades and activities. The third will be awarded on the basis of leadership qualities. All applications are evaluated by an independent judge.

Chairman of the AMA Legacy Scholarship Committee is **Phil Bentley, '83**. The judge is **Dr. Mary DeCredico**, Professor of History at the United States Naval Academy.

Second World War site is now free to view

A site which provides a multimedia history of World War Two is now free to access. The site - ww2history.com - features articles, videos and audio testimonies covering key moments of the war, many recorded by those who experienced the events firsthand.

Death of a cadet

John Toth stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage

On a cool autumn day in 1960, **First Captain Jim Crawford, '61**, was checking Big Barracks in the afternoon to see that all cadets were out of barracks playing sports or some other outdoor activity. In the Courtyard, he encountered 16 year old **Johnny Toth** from Perth Amboy, New Jersey.



John A. Toth
2/25/44 - 11/10/60

Toth said he had a very bad headache and Crawford

suggested that he go to the Infirmary. Toth replied, "Oh, I'll be OK," and went to his room on the second stoop on the Mess Hall side of Big Barracks.

That evening, Toth's roommates took him to the Infirmary where **Nurse Molly Canevet** immediately summoned an ambulance which rushed him to the King's Daughters' Hospital in Staunton.

Next day, not knowing about what had happened to Toth the night before, Crawford encountered **Major Savedge** who said to Jim, "It doesn't look good for Toth."

That is when Crawford learned that Toth has been stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage. Said Crawford, "Johnny lingered for a few days and died on 10 November 1960."

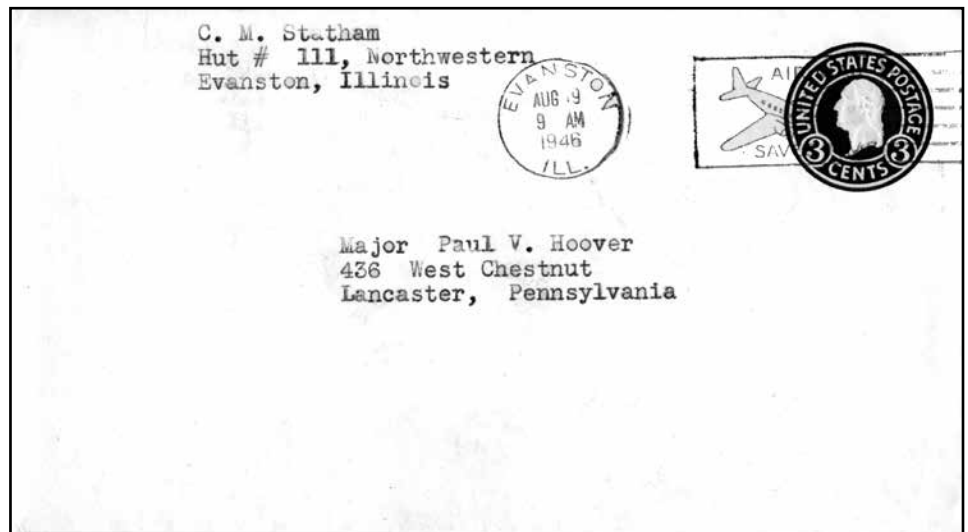
When the Requiem Mass was said a few days later in Perth Amboy, Crawford led a sextet of AMA cadets to act as pallbearers: **Chris Horsey, Lou Kessell, Bill Dorton, George Tompkins, Jim Hack** and Crawford. Major Savedge represented **General Roller** at the funeral.

Says Crawford, "The family was so appreciative of our attention and of the honor we accorded Johnny."

John Alexander Toth had been at AMA just over two months. He was a well liked private in E Company who had made many new friends.



FINAL TRIBUTE - Chris Horsey, Lou Kessell, Bill Dorton, George Thompson, Jim Hack and Jim Crawford carry Johnny Toth from his Requiem Mass in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Crawford says that Johnny's family was deeply appreciative of the honors accorded Johnny by leaders of the Corps of Cadets. Major Savedge represented General Roller and Augusta at the funeral.



BACK WHEN A FIRST CLASS LETTER COST THREE CENTS TO MAIL, Faculty Member Lieutenant C. M. Statham wrote to then Major Hoover to tell him that he would not be coming back to AMA for the 1946-47 school year. Statham, who taught Spanish, said in his letter, "I don't think I could take it for another year. It would be bearable if you had the weekends off. I have instead accepted a position at Texas A&M."



Statham

Shenandoah Valley razed

Next year will mark 150th anniversary of "The Burning"

One hundred fifty years ago, the Shenandoah Valley from Lexington to Winchester was a scene of desolation. Barns and homes had been burned by Union troops, stores of food and grain put to the torch and livestock either slaughtered outright or driven off to fill Yankee stomachs.

Such was the aftermath of "The Burning," the 1864 devastation which Generals Phil Sheridan and George Armstrong Custer created as the Breadbasket of the Confederacy was ruined, thus denying the bounty of the Valley to starving Southern Armies.

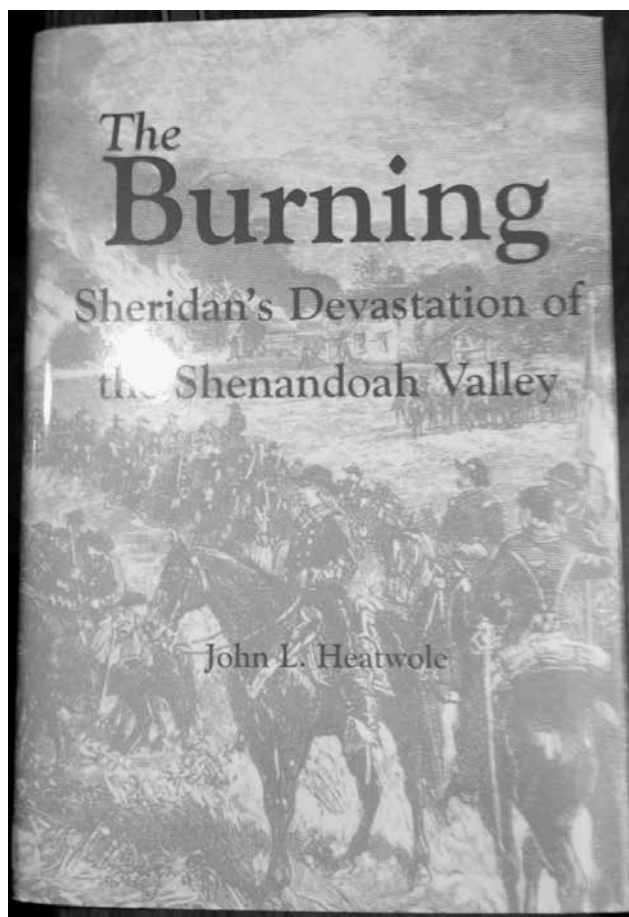
This is the Valley to which **Charles S. Roller, Sr.** returned after Lee's April 1865 surrender at Appomattox. Fields lay fallow while harvested crops, barns and mills were in ashes.

On 27 September 1864, General Custer temporarily took command of the Union Second Division. After skirmishes with Confederate cavalry in Augusta County, Custer moved up the Valley Pike (today's Route 11) from Mount Crawford to Fort Defiance after twelve hard miles. At Fort Defiance, they turned back north and began their march down the Valley¹ burning as they went.

One of the first places encountered by Custer's men after they left Fort Defiance was Belvedere, the home of Thomas McCue. Union troops went from room to room setting fires as "house slaves followed at a discrete distance and extinguished the fires before they could get fairly caught." Belvedere still stands today.

Custer's troops burned mills, blacksmith shops, sawmills, cider presses, threshing machines, a woolen mill and a cooper's shop which held enough wood for a thousand barrels.

Any and everything of any possible value to the Confederate military was to be destroyed under direct orders from General Ulysses Grant, General Sheridan's immediate superior.



The last Confederate money was printed in Richmond in 1864. Each bill was signed individually, usually by the wife or widow of a Southern soldier. The \$10 bill, above, is on display at the AMA Museum.

AT REUNION 2014, THE FRIDAY MOTOR COACH TOUR WILL TRACE THE STEPS OF THE UNION TROOPS WHO WREAKED HAVOC ON THE VALLEY. THE TOUR WILL GO DOWN THE VALLEY TOWARD STRASBURG AND ADMIRAL MARY DeCREDICO WILL BE ON BOARD TO TELL THE STORY OF WHAT "THE BURNING" AUTHOR, JOHN HEATWOLE, DESCRIBED AS "NEITHER A RAID NOR WANTON DESTRUCTION... BUT A WELL-PLANNED AND BRILLIANTLY DIRECTED CAMPAIGN WITHIN A CAMPAIGN."

The Valley's abundance of food and supplies for the Confederate Army conspired to seal its fate. In August of

1864, Grant sent Sheridan and Custer to the Valley to cease its usefulness to the Southern cause. For nearly two weeks in September and October, the burning went on and livestock were rounded up or killed where they were found. At the end, Grant had achieved his aim and the Breadbasket of the Confederacy was laid waste.

¹ Moving north is going "Down the Valley" while traveling South is "Going up the Valley."

SPOTLIGHT on REED NETTLES, '72

By Ruth (Mrs. Howard, '68) Rosenthal

If you ever wondered about the person who makes those exciting NASCAR hot pit passes available to the AMA Alumni Association, this is your chance to meet him, as we spotlight **Reed Nettles, '72**.

Reed grew up in North Carolina, where his father taught the Doolittle Raid bomber pilots (including **Jack Manch, '38**) how to launch B-25s from the *USS Hornet* during World War II. None of the pilots had ever taken off from a carrier before, but all 16 aircraft launched safely – the only time that United States Army Air Forces bombers were launched from a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier on a combat mission.

While Reed's father is no longer living, his mother, now 91, still lives in Charlotte where Reed decided he wanted to go away for high school, as both his older brother and sister were away at college. A close family friend, **Baxter Hayes, '70**, figured prominently in Reed's decision to attend Augusta.

Baxter was attending AMA as a Post Graduate to play on the AMA basketball team. Reed looked up to him and knew he would have a big brother there in Baxter. As a 9th grader, Reed says his time at AMA began with two awesome roommates, **Blaine Clarke, '72** and **Gary Understein, '71**. During his second year, Gary was the Quartermaster so Reed became Assistant Quartermaster and took over his position after Gary graduated. At AMA, Reed enjoyed fencing for **Colonel Hoover's** team.

He also remembers arriving early in the Fall to assure that all new cadets were fitted correctly and received their complete uniforms. Perhaps this early responsibility had an influence on Reed's apparel career that was to follow. As Reed told me, *"I always loved being the only cadet with a key to the Uniform Room in the basement, and if you ever lost a hat, medal, tie, belt buckle, etc., I was your guy."*

Fencing and managing apparel were two things Reed did well, but studying also figured prominently into his daily life at AMA, for which he was rewarded by becoming a member of the Honor Society. Of course, girls could not be ignored during his four years in the Valley and he admits to sneaking off to Stuart Hall whenever possible. He even had his parents write a letter stating he had changed his religion from Baptist to Episcopalian so he could see a girl who went to the Episcopal Church on Sundays.

After graduating from Augusta, Reed attended Pfeiffer College (now Pfeiffer University) in North Carolina with another AMA graduate, **Mark Femrite, '71**. Both sets of parents had homes at Lake Norman, NC, so many weekends that year were spent at the lake. Reed then transferred to the University of South Carolina, majoring in business at The Moore School of Business and began his career in the apparel field with The Lee Company (Lee Jeans).



REED'S LATEST PROJECT - Featured on the cover of the *June/July Retail Merchandiser* is, standing, Reed Nettles, '72, with Tim Rothwell and Michael Gottsegen. They are partners in the All American Licensing and Management Group which has big plans for the Mandalay Bay brand.

After six years with Lee, he joined and helped build the Guess brand of apparel. He used his licensing expertise to develop licenses for The Cherokee Group, managing over 100 licenses, and leaving as a Senior Vice President. During his years there, he took the Cherokee brand into Target stores in Minnesota and Cherokee is now in every

Target stores in Minnesota and Cherokee is now in every Target store in America, and realizes 2% in royalties off a sales volume of over three billion dollars.

Specializing in licensing, over the course of 20 plus years, Reed was instrumental in developing and managing a host of Fortune 500 clients including Coca Cola, Dodge, Ford, PepsiCo, entertainment/character properties for Jim Henson Muppets, Warner Brothers Loony Tunes, sports for NASCAR, NFL, Major League Baseball, and studio properties for NBC/ Universal, Marvel and Disney.

In January 1996 he started his own company, HLG Inc., and developed a host of licensees which sold over 750 million dollars in NASCAR merchandise at the height of HLG's prominence in 2007. It is this association with NASCAR which has enabled Reed to make hot pit passes available to the Alumni Association for three years, and bidding for the passes has been fierce. Reed's former roommate Gary Understein was high bidder for the passes last year, and described his experience as follows: *"These passes are like gold. You could go everywhere! We were even on the track for driver introductions just before the race began. The most unbelievable experience I have ever had!"* This year, **Chris Hart**, also from the Class of 1972, was the high bidder for the passes, and when he uses them, will take along a close friend who is fighting cancer.

Reed is now a Partner and Executive Team President at AALMG (All American Licensing Management Group). Since July 2011 his primary focus has been developing and launching a comprehensive lifestyle-branding program for the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. Reed and two others developed a licensing "road map" for Mandalay Bay and are now working to produce opportunities to generate new revenue streams as well as building brand loyalty and awareness among guests.

A variety of products embracing the Mandalay Bay and its "resortist" philosophy will soon start showing up in the marketplace, and AALMG is not stopping at swimwear and sandals! There are also likely to be sunglasses, health and beauty products, beach towels, bath accessories, and even furniture. Reed and AALMG's strength in the marketing and licensing arena were showcased in June/July 2013 when AALMG's Mandalay Bay team was chosen to grace the cover of Retail Merchandiser magazine (see photo on previous page) and be featured in the cover story. The cover photo was shot on the beach at Mandalay Bay where 2,700 tons of sand were brought in to offer guests a very unusual experience for Las Vegas!

Reed is modest about his accomplishments, but it should be noted that in January 2013, he was asked to join **Garry Granger, '71**, on the Board of the American Fallen Soldiers Project. For Reed, work (both paid and volunteer) is challenging and rewarding, but there is also time for family and fun. He and his wife Terri enjoy each other and their twin boys, one of whom gave them their first grandson in 2010. Reed also flies private aircraft weekly and still enjoys barefoot skiing when he has the chance. Both, he says, are the most fun he has ever had with his clothes on! ★ ★ ★



**Reed Nettles,
1971 Recall**

Lacayo brothers highly successful Nicaraguan entrepreneurs

Cesar and Carlos Lacayo, both from the Class of 1967, are very successful importers/exporters in Nicaragua with a huge mercantile operation. While not twins, they did both finish at AMA in 1967. Both played baseball and were ping pong champions. Both were on the Privilege List both years they were at Augusta. Both of them were staff sergeants and *The Recall* predicted they would follow their father into his business, which both of them did.

Carlos brought his two Marias to visit AMA in 2010. Daughter Maria had just graduated from Princeton. See photo at bottom. Below, as AMA cadets in 1967.



Cesar and Carlos Lacayo



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*Would you like to have a photo
of a paver you have purchased?*

*If you have purchased a paver to honor or
remember a friend or teacher, perhaps you
would like to have a picture of it.*

*Maybe you have not been able to get back to the
campus to see your paver there in front of
the AMA Museum. For a donation of \$10
to the AMA Alumni Foundation
we will send you a photo of your paver..*

*Mail your request and a ten dollar check made
payable to the AMA Alumni Foundation to:
Pavers, P.O. Box 100, Fort Defiance, VA 24437*

*Submit your request by e-mail to:
AugustaMilitaryAcademy@verizon.net
together with a credit card number,
expiration date and security number*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Use the order form below to purchase a paver or pavers to be installed in front of the AMA Alumni House/Museum. Perhaps remember a teacher who changed your life. Honor a roommate or other AMA friend. Pay tribute to a member of the military service. Your tribute will be there in perpetuity, your message laser cut into the brick. Years from now, it will remain long after we are all gone. Place an order now so that your paver can be installed before the onset of winter.

PAVER ORDER FORM

Debit or credit card number _____

Expiration date _____ Security number _____

Signature (required) _____

Fill in the blanks below. PLEASE PRINT! Only one order per form, please. Copy this form to order additional pavers. When you buy a paver you support the AMA Museum, our scholarships and The Bayonet.

Your name _____ Class if an AMA alumnus _____

Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Phone (____) ____ - _____ E-mail address _____

WHAT SIZE PAVER DO YOU WANT? _____ 8" X 8" (\$100) _____ 4" X 8" (\$50)

Please PRINT what you want on your engraved brick, below.

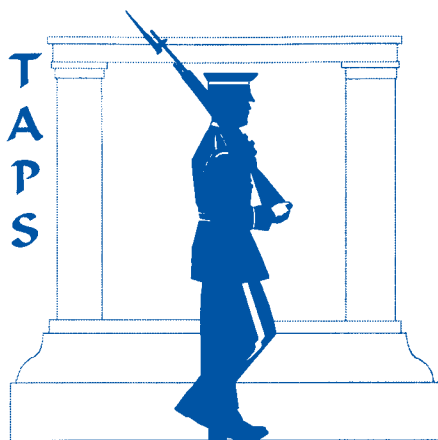
Maximum lettering: 4" X 8" - Three lines of 12 characters each

8" X 8" - Five lines of 12 characters each

1> _____
2> _____
3> _____
4> _____
5> _____

Punctuation marks and spaces
count as characters!

Make check payable to:
AMA Alumni Foundation
Mail to: P. O. Box 100
Fort Defiance, VA 24437



Please report deaths and illnesses of AMA alumni, faculty and friends to the AMA Chaplain
Frank Spencer, '49
506 Old Charleston Road
Waynesboro, VA 22980
540/943-2633
FrankSpencer53@gmail.com

Boyd Wilson Stephenson, '42

24 September 2013, University of Virginia Hospital, 91. He was Museum Director **Crysta Stephenson's** grandfather, the brother of the late **Luke Stephenson, '39**, and the nephew of **Janet Stephenson Roller, General Roller's** wife. Left AMA to join the Navy and was a gunner's mate on a supply ship off the coast of Japan when two atom bombs ended World War Two. U.S. supply ships were the favorite targets for the Japanese and Germans. Operated a cattle and sheep farm on his family's ancestral home in Monterey where his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren spent their childhoods. Survived by three sons; Boyd "Steve" of Virginia and Arizona, and Frank and Thomas, both of Monterey; two daughters; Somers Fullerton of Lynchburg and Monterey; and Charlotte Shamrock of Monterey. In addition to Crysta, he is survived by five other grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

John W. Field, '47

8 May 2013, Virginia Beach, 83. US Air Force officer with service in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Sur-



Jack Field,
1947 Recall



Ed Noboa,
1960 Recall



Dean Nagy
1969 Recall



Steve Pearson,
1972 Recall

vived by his loving wife of 62 years, Margaret. At AMA: 2LT, E Company, fencing team.

Walter Raleigh Wells, '48

22 August 2013, Mathews, VA. Graduate of the Richmond Professional Institute and the College of William and Mary. Taught in the public schools and later entered the accounting field from which he retired in 2006. Survived by daughters Nan Wells of Hopewell, Elizabeth Neal of Kansas City, MO, Lori Toth of Nashville and Valerie Wells of Mathews; a son, Jonathan, of Richmond; his sister, Virginia Abbott of Tampa, FL; and four grandchildren. At AMA: Private, Headquarters Company; music study.

Thomas N. "Joe" Wills, '53

28 August 2013, Leigh Hall Assisted Living, Norfolk, 80. Antique Automobile Club of the US, Cape Henry Model A Ford Club. Survived by his wife of 15 years, Betty; granddaughters, Kim Ward and Brittany McClendon; grandsons, Timothy Easton and Thomas Garris; four great grandchildren; a step-daughter, Laura Marston; and two step-granddaughters. At AMA: Private, B Company; wrestling; tennis.

Dr. Eduardo Noboa, '60

June 2013. No details. Graduate of Johns Hopkins. Surgeon in Mexico City before going to the Cleveland Clinic to do laparoscopic surgery. He later returned to his hometown, Quito, Ecuador, where he finished his sterling career. Served as a Senator in the Ecuadorian Parliament. Married, he has six children: two are lawyers, one a veterinarian, a son who is an MD, one in marketing and one who is an agricultural engineer. At AMA: 2LT in

E Company, member of the Roller Rifles, on the fencing and track teams and on the Honor Committee. Reported by **Rodrigo Fernandez Salvador, '66**

James Irving Chambers, '69 **aka Ronald Dean Nagy**

29 December 2012, Roanoke, 65, after a brief illness. Survived by his mother, Iva Hite Chambers and his stepfather James Chambers, and a sister Patricia Nagy White. At AMA: Captain; football, soccer, lacrosse. Reported by **Rick Ellett, '72**.

Steven L. Pearson, '72

20 July 2013, Bradenton, FL, 59. Steve endured a mind boggling combination of serious illnesses: leukemia, lupus, a series of blood clots which caused memory losses and arthritis. He is remembered by all AMA alumni as the man who created "AMAMail" which gave our alumni a chance to communicate with each other before things like texting and FaceBook came along. Steve earned an AMA Alumni Medal in 1999. Executive Vice President of New England Machinery and President of Sure Torque for 14 years, he held a patent for a machine designed for his company. Survived by his wife of 34 years, Mary, daughters Kristen and Leah, and his faithful companion, Pug. At AMA: MSGT, Staff; *Recall* photographer; *Bayonet* staff; fencing.

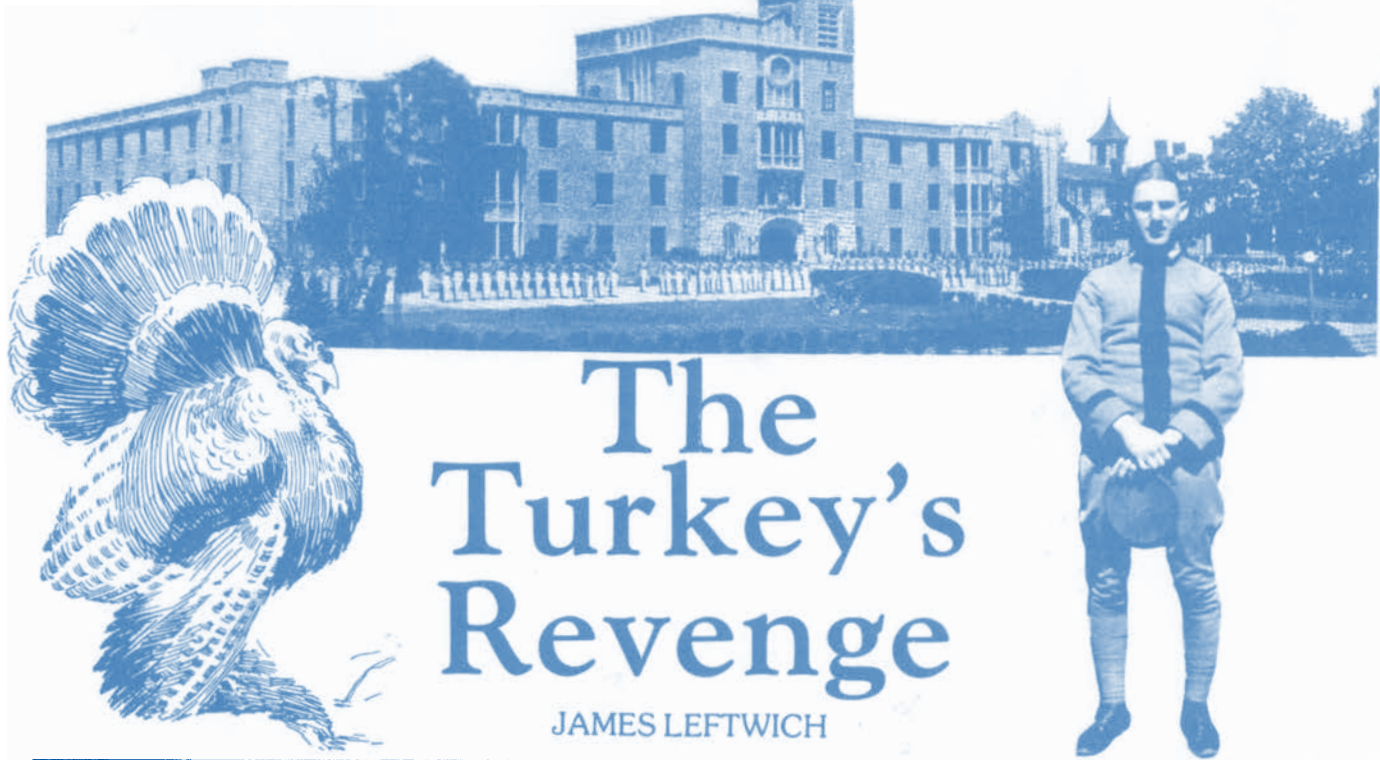
Osvaldo Soto, '77

March, 2013, in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. No details.



Order a paver to honor a classmate or AMA friend.

This article first appeared in *Shenandoah Virginia Town & Country* 30 years ago in November, 1983. James "Leftie" Leftwich, Class of 1920, wrote the article from his home in La Jolla, CA where he died in 1992. Thanks to Elliott Ridge, '59, for finding the article.



IT hardly seems sixty-three years ago that my father packed me off in a dollar and a half trunk to Augusta Military Academy, via the C & O up to Staunton, Virginia. A bus awaited to take me out to the Academy at Fort Defiance, six miles away just West of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The late General Tom Roller, then Colonel Roller, Commandant, lost no time letting us newcomers know who was boss. The older cadets also lost no time in swatting the first year men in their backs with their fists, while yelling: "Fin-out, mistuh!" to get "rats" to keep their shoulders straight and their arms hanging rigidly at their sides. They also saw to it that we quickly learned to obey their orders without question. How I wished I had behaved better in my first year of high school, back home in the Tidewater section where I hailed from (Newport News). Introduction to what we could expect came quickly. 'Hazing' didn't sit too well. Realization came rapidly that I was outnumbered. Besides which the older cadets were much bigger!

Gradually conviction came to many of us that we would either have to submit to the indignities of a pummeling year, and all sorts of regimentation or devise ingenious ways of circumventing the endless regulations of a military academy.

In no time at all I found myself walking guard duty for infringement of posted, and unposted, rules. As a young shaver toting a heavy U.S. Army rifle around the parade ground, to march-off an hour or two of penance, had no appeal for any of us. It rankled.

An idea burst forth, that might in some manner off-set the galling, even exasperation, of lugging that heavy Army rifle around AMA's playing field/parade ground. The bulletin board at the entrance arch of the barracks needed neatening-up. It was then that the suggestion of doing some fancy art-work, designs, and lettering might be a substitute for guard duty.

"The Cun-nel" was a reasonable, understanding, and cognizant man. He agreed: "Fancy-up the bulletin board as a substitute for guard-duty."

Shortly thereafter, the Colonel remembered the Old Augusta Stone Church. Down the ravine behind the gymnasium and assembly hall, and up the nearby hill stood the ancient church of mid-17th Century (Old Augusta Stone Church), where the Cadet Corps marched for Sunday services. Its roster of pastors on the plaque above the altar was incomplete. Names of the last few preachers were missing. The aged church, more than two centuries old, should be updated. I was commissioned to add the missing names, in lieu of guard duty I had won for continued infraction of rules of the Academy.

"Paint-in the names of the last few ministers," Colonel Roller said, "and we'll skip your guard duty of an hour due today. (The church in more recent years has been beautifully refurbished and rebuilt.)"

Late that October afternoon of 1919, with a tall ladder, a bottle of drawing ink, pencils, brushes and candle and matches, this fugitive from gun-toting guard duty went

down the ravine and up the hill to the old Stone Church through the back door. Set-up was made to paint-in the names of the missing ministers.

While lettering away, atop the ladder with a candle affixed to the side of the ladder under the darkened church interior behind and above the altar, the rear door opened, just beside the foot of the ladder. In walked little Billy Sikes the boy who was working his way through the Academy. He had come to sweep out and straighten-up the church for services the following day.

An irresistible urge to scare hell out of him overtook the letterer, atop the ladder. A long, low and resonant: "WHOOOSE THAT DOWN THEREEE? WHOOOSE THAT DOWN THEREEE?" The eerie sound reverberated frighteningly throughout the deserted, darkened church. Little cadet Sikes spun around and whipped out of the back door as if he had been blasted out of the church by dynamite, before the ghoulis voice died down and stopped vibrating from the rafters.

Later no one could convince young Sikes that it was, indeed, from atop the ladder of the sign painter. He felt certain he had heard the spiritual bellowing from up above.

The guard duty penalties continued to pile-up. The painting opportunity to off-set the guard-duty dwindled. November found us 'confined to quarters' for continued fracturing of regulations. Thanksgiving approached. No leave; no liberty, just 'confinement to grounds'. Thanksgiving was nearing. A huge, handsome fellow-cadet from Norfolk, John Ely, found himself in the same predicament. "Let's have a turkey with all the fixin's right here in the barracks" John tempted. "Impossible," was the only reaction. "All we've got to do," John intriguingly persisted, "is to jump out of our ground floor windows after call to quarters, tonight, walk down to 'The Fort' (which we called the Village store, at the Ft. Defiance station) and right across the way is a turkey farm, with gobblers all over the place. They'd hardly miss one of the birds. Many of the turkeys roost in trees all over the place. It'll be a cinch to grab

one and take it to the 'pie lady' nearby. She'll cook it for us. I've made arrangements." We did.

That was the heaviest bird this writer ever saw, or helped to carry. It took two of us to tote that turkey the half-mile to the farm woman. She frequently sold pies to the cadets. She promised to cook the turkey and make lots of dressing and have it ready for Thanksgiving, for one dollar and twenty-five cents. We were determined to have our own private 'turkey day' despite the 'confinement to grounds.'

Early the following morning both John Ely and the writer were briskly summoned to the Colonel's office. His partly bald head was sweating with rage. He accused the trembling culprits, before him, of having stolen one of Augusta County's prize Turkeys. It had won the Blue Ribbon for 'Best of Its Kind' at the Farm Show the Fall before!

O! Col. Roller emphatically impressed upon his cringing cadets that the incident was such a heinous crime that he was fearful of making a public announcement of it. Furthermore, to keep it quiet he was going to forget the whole thing - except for the fact that we had to pay for the turkey which was twenty dollars. He didn't want to give the school a bad name. Ely coughed up his ten dollars. I did not have any money and arranged with Capt. Yarbrough, the quartermaster, to put the ten dollars on my First Term bill to be sent to my father. He was willing, he promised, to label the \$10.00 for a 'fatigue shirt,' books, and other essential cadet things.

Late December found the writer home for the Holidays. The second day, just before Christmas, my father called me to his office, flourishing the first quarter bill from Augusta Military Academy:

"What's this item, 'Ten Dollars, balance due for one turkey?'," he bellowed.

It was a lean and disciplined Christmas that followed. 🍎

Tribute to Doc Savedge

Most of us had great stories about **Colonel Savedge**. In my senior year I wanted to do something really special for Doc. He had taken me in, he knew my Dad and Mom had divorced and he passed me in chemistry knowing full well I could have cared less about that subject.

In the yearbook Doc referred to me as the High Top Black Chuck kid. So at graduation I gave Doc a bronzed size 11 inch high top black chuck.

Over the years I returned to AMA now and again and Doc was always there to greet me but I was living in a totally selfish world and never really told him how much I appreciated the steak dinners on a hot plate in his faculty room on a Monday afternoon when there was totally nothing to do. Nor did I just thank him for his friendship and support over the years.

At home I was a wild man, escaping big trouble from time to time but when at AMA I was disciplined. Doc knew what was going on and he was a friend.

When Doc passed away, I contacted **Colonel Livick** about the Bronzed High Top Black Chuck shoe, asked if he had seen it and if it was possible that I could have it. Colonel Livick said, "*Charlie, that shoe was right on Doc's fireplace mantle, but they have cleaned his place out and I would not know where to start looking for it.*"

Wow, Doc had kept that gift and had kept me in his thoughts and prayers all those years. Still wish I would have not been so selfish during my youth and had told Doc how much I appreciated him, his guidance and his friendship.

I do feel comfortable in knowing I will have Eternity to spend time with him because of my belief in what Jesus Christ has done for us.

God Bless AMA,

Charlie Smith, '67
bsmith2@ups.com

C.Robert (Bob) Smith
Vice President
Air Group Security
UPS Airlines

Barber's *Until They Are Home* will be on Netflix on 1 November

Until They Are Home narrator **Kelsey Grammer** says that Netflix's decision to feature the film done by **Steven Barber, '78**, is an appropriate tribute "to something bigger than anything I do on a day to day basis as an actor."

The film follows the noble path documenting the heroic efforts to search around the globe for thousands of MIAs from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. There are still 88,000 unaccounted for from these foreign wars.

Barber thanked Netflix executives Reed Hastings and Ian Brick. "In this age of reality TV and low budget horror films, this means a great deal to all who are interested in this emotional undertaking," says Barber.



Steve's production company Vanilla Fire will premier its newest film *The Carrier* on Veterans Day. This will be a story about the world's first college basketball game on an aircraft carrier, the *Carl Vinson*, which serves as a backdrop for a story about Navy men and women.

President Obama makes a surprise appearance as North Carolina and Michigan State battled it out on the carrier deck. The *Vinson* was the staging area for Seal Team 6 which took out Osama bin Laden. That film

will be available at www.carrierclassicmovie.com on 11 November.

Barber's first film *Return to Tarawa* earned rave reviews with Ed Harris doing the narration. Vanilla Fire has three more projects underway, one about JFK, another about a 95 year old WWII vet and a third about the Balloon Boy.

Tom Douglas, '62 Lead effort to accredit the Baltimore Police Department

He now lives in Delaware near the beaches where he vacationed for three decades but that was after he served as the Accreditation Coordinator for the University of Baltimore Police Department (UBPD).

Thomas E. Douglas, '62, led a three year self analysis of the agency's directives, orders, SOPs and training with an on site assessment by the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CALEA).

The commission held a hearing where Douglas and the police chief addressed their questions. Being the first called, the UBPD set the stage for the others awaiting their hearing. Ironically, among those waiting was the Staunton Chief of Police.

The commission voted to accredit the UBPD (as well as Staunton's Department), an honor accorded to only seven per cent of the 18,000 police departments in the United States.

After this success, Tom went into retirement – again. In 2008, he retired from Johns Hopkins University's Campus Safety and Security Department, concluding a 39 year career in law enforcement and security. He likely will continue consulting with college security departments to help them remain in compliance with the 1990 Campus Security Act.

Now, Tom and his wife are living in Lewes, Delaware, just a few miles from where they have vacationed for the last 30 years. At AMA, Tom was in Headquarters Company and belonged to the Cotillion Club. He grew up in Baltimore.



**Tom E. Douglas,
1962 Recall**

Maintenance work at Museum approved

At its September meeting, the AMA Foundation trustees approved up to \$4,600 for painting and restoration work at the AMA Alumni House/Museum. "This is a continuing process," says Foundation Chair **Blaine Clarke, '72**. "The old house needs constant care." **Brett Thompson, '75**, did the work and did it well. Thank you, Brett!

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On their annual march from Lexington to New Market to commemorate the participation by VMI cadets in the 1864 Civil War Battle at New Market, a troop of VMI cadets stopped by AMA for lunch and a rest break. AMA Alumni and spouses were there to greet them: VMI Grad Frank Spencer, '49, and Ida, Goodloe Saunders, '57, and Brenda, Ben Zinkhan, '60, and Joyce, Doug Carter, '72, Hugh Harmon, '58, and Kathy and Buddy Krise, '57. The ladies prepared the refreshments and all went away happy!





DELTA CREW - Former Delta Pilot Rick Smail, '67, and Stuart Hall's Susan Yates, '72, had a chance meeting in the Atlanta Airport. Rick was headed to Richmond for the alumni board meetings. For 25 years (1982-2007), Susan worked in the Delta Cincinnati Call Center.



MITCH'S CREW - Jim Mitchell, '76, has missed the last couple of reunions *"because the country is going in the wrong direction and I have had to restructure my restaurant business."* But Mitch is coming to Reunion 2014 and hopes to bring son Matt, far right, with him.

Matt is now six four and in his final year at the University of Pennsylvania with plans to join his Dad in the Pittsburgh restaurant. Matt attended Missouri Military Academy on the special AMA Scholarship which was created through the efforts of AMA friend and MMA Alumnus Chuck Foley.

Mal is in her sixth year of pharmacy at Duquesne University. She and Jim's wife, Casey, drove to Florida after spending a night at Tommy White's farmhouse near Charlotte. At the left in the photo is Mal's longtime boyfriend, Rob, *"who she will eventually marry."*

Sergeant Joe's wife has passed away

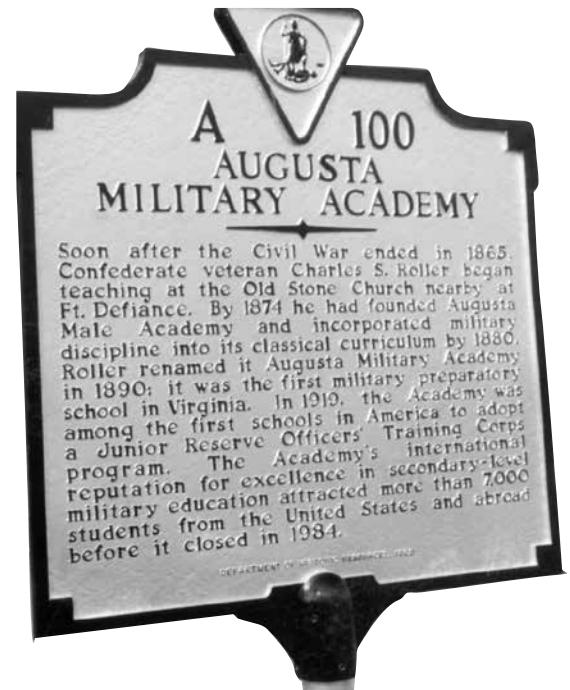
Myra "Jo Jo" Josephson, who was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, **MSG Joe Josephson**, died on 10 July 2013 at her home in Fairfield after a prolonged battle with cancer. She was 81. She had worked as a nurse in Colorado, Virginia and North Carolina and assisted Sergeant Joe when he was volunteering at the AMA Museum.

They had four children, seven grandchildren and a great-grandson plus several foster children who they had raised. She was buried on 22 August next to her husband at Arlington National Cemetery.

Vietnam benefits from page 16

I also have learned that veterans are offered for the most part the same discounts at various businesses as are offered to active duty military personnel.

Since receiving my VA card, I've received up to 40% discounts at hotels and have been welcomed at military lounges at airports. I would offer that there are many advantages to actively pursuing what is available and would encourage those who have not explored their options to take a little time to see what is possible.



CAN YOU SPOT THE ERROR ON THE AMA SIGN?

This is the Virginia Department of Transportation sign that sits on US Route 11 in front of the AMA campus – and it contains a major error. Can you spot it? Answer on page 22.

A	M	A	
	U		
	S		
N	E	W	S
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	M		

Interns, a visit from our delegate to the Virginia General Assembly and trying to find time, unvexed, to do what needs to be done

By Crysta Stephenson, Executive Director

To say the very least, a lot has happened at the museum this summer.

We have a new internship program and two very bright young women from Bridgewater College working here daily.

We initiated a new system for collections inventory and documentation (after several failed attempts). Initially, we thought we could handle one shelf per week. Two words: Bad idea. More on that later!

We invited about 20 state and federal elected officials to visit the museum; talked to several of them or their staff members on the phone; and hosted a few in person.

We wrote a draft of a finance policy.

We worked in everyone's vacations and medical procedures (**Doug Carter** got a Pacemaker!) and my oldest child graduated from high school and started college.

And, we got a new boss thanks to **Blaine Clarke!** In short, we've been a little busy.

I'll say a few words here about our internship program and invite you to read more about it in the related story in this issue. Here, I'd love to thank **Nancy** and **John Botcheller, '67**, for their assistance in helping finalize the details of this program.

John's aunt, **Mrs. Helen Charleton**, whose late husband **William Charleton** graduated from AMA in 1915, has made a long-term commitment to fund the program which allows the museum to hire two interns for a total of 600 hours during each summer for the next ten years.

What a fabulous gift! In my mind, this is not only a gift to the Foundation and the museum, but it is a real, live program that will help ensure the short-term success of the museum and will go far in ensuring its longevity.

And, while I am very grateful for Mrs. Charleton's generosity, I wanted to use a bit of ink to share my appreciation to John and Nancy for helping to see this through to fruition.

Now, here's a little more on our inventory system and my big idea to complete one shelf per week (which was borne out of a few other ideas that flopped). It looked good on paper. It really did! Two neat columns with the shelves numbered and labeled on one side and the dates they should be completed on the other. Fabulous!



Virginia State Delegate Steve Landes, who represents Augusta, Rockingham and part of Albemarle Counties in the Virginia General Assembly, visited the AMA Museum on 15 August as part of the American Alliance of Museum's "Invite Your Legislator to Your Museum Week."

Wrong. It was a good idea, except that, at the museum, business does not neatly come to a halt while we are struggling to get those boxes done. As I've mentioned in this column before, the work with the collections is not exactly brain surgery, but it is meticulous and incredibly time-consuming. However, one little thing I discovered is that "time-consuming" takes on a new meaning when you are working with uniform pieces, which is ALL we have in our collection, not too many one-of-a-kinds here in the AMA storage room.

Picture this: A box labeled "Overcoats" which is not intimidating at all. There are six overcoats in the box, all very nearly exactly alike. There are four existing records for overcoats. One record does not match any of the overcoats in the box. Two records match by the identification number on the record and the ID tag attached to the coat. The fourth record seems to be a duplicate of one of the records that match a coat. In the end, three coats have no existing record. One of the remaining, non-recorded coats has a tag

pinned to it that says **PJ Thompson, '72**, donated it but it has **Wayne Vincent's** name written on the collar tag. But, wait, another coat that has a record that matches it says it was donated by Vincent. Did Vincent donate two or did Thompson have Vincent's coat and donate it? Confusion mounts.

The second non-recorded coat has **Mark Femrite's** name on it. No problem! I know Mark and so I placed a call to him. Mark doesn't remember ever donating that coat, but since it is already here with his name in it, he is willing to be accountable for it. So, it is currently logged in under his name. And, last but not least, we have one coat remaining with no identifying marks on it except that it is considerably smaller than all the rest and must be from the junior school.

So, six coats, four old records, three newly-created records, 38 photos, a phone call and five hours later, one box is done. And as we move toward accreditation, every single item in the museum must be thus catalogued and photographed from seven different angles!

There are four textile boxes to a shelf. But, if you first do not succeed, try, try again! After a session of griping and complaining about finding the time to get all this done, my new boss devised a new plan. Blaine said, *"Set aside a whole week and I want you to do nothing but work on collections. I want you counting grey shirts and whatever else you find in there!"*

The man is a genius! This worked. And, we are going to continue with it. Henceforth, the second week of every month is Collections Week. I am to set aside the majority of the office work and focus entirely on getting the collections in order.

All kidding aside, I did find Blaine's system to work best. When I can concentrate fully on collections, with his blessing, it does make the process work more smoothly and a lot faster. With the start-and-stop of trying to integrate it with the daily work, I found myself repeating stages of the process unnecessarily and skipping stages erroneously. When I focus on the work completely, I move through it much more fluidly and work gets done better. Wagons ho!

Another project we took on this summer ended with a small measure of success. That was the "Invite Congress To Your Museum Day." It is a national initiative driven by the American Alliance of Museums, the same organization that grants museum accreditation. We sent out invites to all the state and federal officials charged with representing the Fort Defiance area of Augusta County. Then, we expanded our reach and at the suggestions of **Bud Oakey, '70**, and **Steve Trent, '70** we sent invitations to U. S. Senators and Representatives in the outlying areas of Virginia. We did not have much response from those extended area folks, but at least they know we exist now.

With regard to our actual representatives, we did get responses from U.S. Senators **Mark Warner** and **Tim Kaine** as well as U.S. Representative **Bob Goodlatte**, Virginia State Senator **Emmett Hanger** and Virginia Delegate **Steve Landes**.

Congressman Goodlatte has visited our museum in the past and Senator Hanger was responsible for securing a

\$10,000 grant for the museum in 2008.

Delegate Landes visited in person and was pleasantly surprised when I explained to him that we are seeking accreditation and looking for ways to ensure longevity as a small museum. I gave him a tour of the storage rooms and my office and explained a little about museum procedure and how it applied to us. Mister Landes pledged to research for applicable grants for us via the Library of Virginia and Virginia's Department of Historic Resources.

I indicated that a legislative sponsor is required for any Virginia DHR grants and Delegate Landes immediately agreed to sponsor an application for us. He followed up the next week with a letter to us indicating his support.

Congressman Goodlatte did not visit in person but did send a staff member to visit the museum on a Wednesday afternoon. Debbie Garrett from his Staunton office dropped by for a tour and took a copy of "The AMA Way" with her to share. I found her to be pleasantly surprised with our little gem here in the Valley. She confessed that she had driven by our gate many times but had never taken the time to stop by for a visit.

Senator Kaine's scheduler stayed hot on the phone with me desperately trying to work in a visit to the museum during the Senator's pass through the Valley in August. Sadly, it was not to be. The Senator visited the Rockingham County Fair but sadly was not able to carve enough time in his schedule to visit us.

Senator Warner's office did respond with regrets that he would not be able to visit but was happy for the information. And, Senator Hanger's office indicated that his schedule was simply too busy in August but that he will stop by to see us again this Fall.

All in all, we put in a nice effort and got good results. We should all thank **Frank Williamson, '60**, for encouraging us to take on this project in the first place. Thanks, Frank!

So, yes, the summer was busy! But, the great thing about it is looking back and seeing what was accomplished over the course of the busy season. I am very satisfied with the work we have done this summer. It serves as a great encouragement because we've got a lot of work ahead of us this autumn!



Crysta Stephenson

Museum Director

Augusta Military Academy Alumni House/Museum

P.O. Box 101

1640 Lee Highway

Fort Defiance, VA 24437

540-248-3007

540-248-4533 - FAX

AugustaMilitaryAcademy@Verizon.net

Chris Hart, '72, has high NASCAR bid

In spirited bidding which ended just five minutes before bids closed, **Chris Hart**, '72, had the high bid of \$1,611 for the four NASCAR hot pit passes which had been made available for the online auction by his classmate **Reed Nettles**. The entire amount became a contribution to the AMA Alumni Foundation.

Hart of Clarksburg, MD got into the bidding in midstream but matched competing bids to the final moment. Chris plans to take his brother-in-law, who is struggling with cancer, to two NASCAR races this year or in 2014.

For the past three years, Reed has made available the quartet of passes which allows the bearers to be in the pits at a race, talk with the drivers and mechanics and spend time in the garages. Last year, **Gary Understein**, '71, had the top bid and reported that attending the races with the passes *"was an experience of a lifetime."*



**Chris Hart,
'72 Bayonet**



COAST TO COAST - Former Alumni Association President Jorge Roviroso, '70, of Miami visits former Alumni Foundation Chairman Bob Bradford, '50, in Folsom, California.



50 YEARS AGO - Lowell Tackett, '61, mans his weapon in Vietnam, 1963. Lowell is principally responsible for the 105 howitzer that now stands guard on the AMA campus.

AMA alumni invited to use Carroll House at Stuart Hall

Stuart Hall has kindly offered Carroll House on their campus as a quiet place for AMA alumni to stay when in Staunton. Carroll House has rooms and kitchen facilities for \$50 a night or \$100 for a two night weekend (rate slightly higher on "big" weekends).

There are gas logs in the fireplace and cable TV. The house is located at 402 Osage Place in Staunton. For more information, contact Ginger Henry at 540/885-0356.



40 YEARS AGO - AMA won the Blue Ridge Conference Fencing title with Mark Femrite, Harry Baldwin, Thom McCabe, Herb Maher, Lee Stanley, David Zook, Wayne Vincent, Don Malnati and Lud Sharpless.



1530



1301



5204



1303



1510



1520



1620

Golf Caps with Overseas Cap Logo

AMA cap with overseas cap patch embroidered on front. One size fits all.

1301	\$20, BLUE
1302	\$20, OLIVE

AMA Sweatshirt

Cotton blend '60s/'70s AMA gray sweatshirt.

1530	ADULT	
	S-XL	\$30
	XXL	\$32
	XXXL	\$33

1750	YOUTH	
	S-L	\$25

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Tervis tumblers with authentic AMA patch installed between layers of the tumbler. Lifetime guarantee. Keeps hot drinks hot and cold drinks cold.

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5209	\$30, SET OF TWO 24 OZ.

AMA '50s Cap

Blue or beige AMA cap with '50s logo on front and Augusta Military Academy embroidered on back. One size fits all.

1303	\$20, BLUE
1304	\$20, BEIGE

Gray Hoodie

Cotton blend hoodie in adult and youth sizes.

1510	ADULT	
	S-XL	\$35
	XXL	\$37
	XXXL	\$38
1710	YOUTH	
	S-L	\$30

Blue Hoodie

Navy blue hoodie. Cotton blend.

1520	ADULT	
	S-XL	\$35
	XXL	\$37
	XXXL	\$38
1720	YOUTH	
	S-L	\$30

Blue T-Shirt

Blue t-shirt. 100% cotton.

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	XXL	\$18
	XXXL	\$19
1740	YOUTH	
	S-L	\$16

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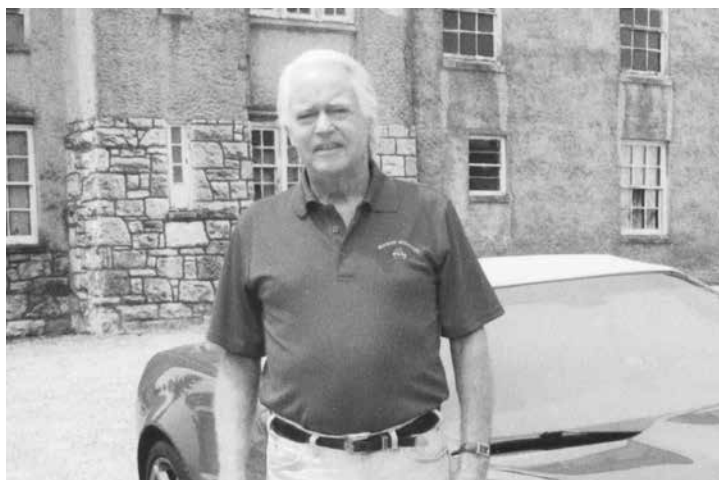
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HIGH HOPES - The strong Spring winds severely damaged one of the great trees in front of the Museum and the decision was made to cut down the 100 year old tree. It turned out to be hollow inside and surely would have fallen in another storm. Maybe, a hundred years from now, the sapling growing in the hollow of the old tree will be as magnificent as its predecessor.



FIRST TIME BACK - James Crass, '57, lives in Scranton, PA and he visited the Museum this Summer, brought in by the signs on I-81.

Tom DelValle, '73, thanks AMA brothers, others for their support

In July of 2012, Tom DelValle, '73, nearly died after having been shot accidentally in a Dallas area gun shop. A gunsmith accidentally discharged a .40 calibre hollow point bullet which went through a wall before striking Tom with major damage to his liver. A year later, Tom has reached out to thank his AMA brothers and other friends for their support of him and his family as he slowly recovered. His letter is below. Write Tom at: scooter111@att.net

July 6, 2013

Hard to believe but July will make it a complete year since the random events took place that almost ended my life. As I look back on your support post the shooting I can only characterize it all as absolutely amazing. Your kindness, thoughts and prayers are clearly what gave me the will to not only survive but fully recover. My family and I could not have weathered the storm without you and though I will try.....I will never adequately put into words how much it meant to us all.

I have heard the stories being told by the many that were there in the waiting room, by my hospital bed and at my home. The emails, texts, cards, letters, - *we kept them all* - calls, prayers, gift bags, flowers, food and personal visit to our home. Given I was in a coma I missed many of them as they took place but I thought I would just try to capture the impact they had.

Patti has told me time and again that though she struggled to be strong and in control of the world around her, she could not have gone through this without you doing your part. She is an incredible lady, love of my life and mother to our girls and the role she found herself in was truly devastating. You called her, listened and talked to her, you held her, and you lifted both of us with your prayers. You gave her the strength to do all that needed to be done.....and for all of that.....we thank you.

Thank you seems rather simple yet it needs to be said. Just know that in my darkest hours being surrounded by friends and family truly made a difference and gave me the strength to fight my way back.

So this July, we will raise a glass to *you*.....and *thank you*.....for being there when we needed *you* most!

All the very best,

Tom & Family